

THE

(5)

ORPHAN;

OR, THE

UNHAPPY MARRIAGE.

A

TRAGEDY.

By MR. THOMAS OTWAY.

*Qui Pelago credit, magno se fœnore tollit;
Qui Pugnas & Castra petit, præcingitur Auro;
Vilis Adulator picto jacet ebrius Oestro;
Et qui sollicitat nuptas, ad præmia peccat:
Sola pruinosis horret Facundia pennæ,
Atque inopi lingua desertas invocat Artes.*

• PETRON. ABE. SAT.

D U B L I N :

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PROLOGUE.

TO you great judges in this writing age,
The sons of wit, and patrons of the stage,
With all those humble thoughts which still have sway'd
His pride, much doubting, trembling, and afraid
Of what is to his want of merit due,
And aw'd by ev'ry excellence in you,
The Author sends to beg you would be kind,
And spare those many faults you needs must find.
You to whom wit a common foe is grown,
The thing you scorn, and publicly disown;
Tho' now perhaps y'are here for other ends,
He swears to me ye ought to be his friends:
For he ne'er call'd ye yet insipid tools:
Nor wrote one line to tell ye you were fools:
But says, of wit you have so large a store,
So very much, you never will have more.
He ne'er with libel treated yet the town,
The names of honest men bedarr'd and shown,
Nay never on e lampoon'd the harmless life
Of suburb virgin, or of city wife.
Satyr's the effect of poetry's disease
Which sick of a lewd age, she vents to ease;
But now her only strife should be to please;
Since of ill fate the baneful clouds withdrawn,
And happiness a ain begins to dawn,
Since back with joy and triumph he is come,
That always drove fears hence, ne'er brought 'em home,
Oft has he plow'd the boist'rous ocean o'er,
Yet ne'er more welcome to the longing shore,
Not when he brought home victories before.
For then fresh laurels flourish'd on his brow,
And he comes crown'd with olive branches now.
Receive him! oh receive him as a friend's,
Embrace the blessing which he recommends;
Such quiet as your foes shall ne'er destroy,
Then shake off fears, and clap your hands for joy.

DRAMATIS PERSONÆ.

M E N.

ACASTO, a Nobleman retired from the Court, and living privately in the Country.

CASTALIO, } His Sons.
POLYDORE, }

CHAMONT, a young Soldier of Fortune.

ERNESTO, } Servants in the Family.
PAULINO, }

CORDELIO, POLYDORE's Page.

Chaplain.

W O M E N.

MONIMIA, the Orphan, left under the Guardianship of old ACASTO.

SERINA, ACASTO's Daughter.

FLORELLA, MONIMIA's Woman.

S C E N E, BOHEMIA.

T H E



T H E
O R P H A N.

A C T I. S C E N E I.

Enter PAULINO and ERNESTO.

P A U L I N O.

TIS strange, ERNESTO, this severity
Should still reign pow'rful in ACASIO's mind.
To hate the court where he was born and liv'd,
All honors heap'd on him that pow'r could give.

ERN. 'Tis true he came thither a private gentleman,
But young and brave, and of a family
Antient and noble as the empire holds,
The honors he has gain'd are justly his ;
He purchas'd them in war ; thrice has he led
An army 'gainst the rebels, and as often
Return'd with victory ; the world has not
A truer soldier, or a better subject.

PAUL. It was his virtue that first made me serve him.
He is the best of masters as of friends,
I know he has lately been invited thither !
Yet still he keeps his stubborn purpose ; cries,

He's old, and willingly would be at rest :
 I doubt there's deep resentment in his mind,
 For the late slight his honor suffer'd there. [borne,

ERN. Has he not reason? when, for what he had
 Long hard, and faithful toil, he might have claim'd,
 Places in honor, and employment high ;
 A huffing, shining, flatt'ring, cringing coward,
 A canker-worm of peace was rais'd above him.

PAUL. Yet still he holds just value for the king,
 Nor ever names him but with highest reverence :
 'Tis noble that—

ERN. Oh! I have heard him wanton in his praise,
 Speak things of him might charm the ears of envy.

PAUL. Oh! may he live 'till nature's self grow old,
 And from her womb no more can bless the earth!
 For when he dies, farewell all honor, bounty,
 All generous encouragements of arts ;
 For charity herself becomes a widow.

ERN. No, he has two sons that were ordain'd to be
 As well his virtue's, as his fortune's heirs. [ness,

PAUL. They're both of nature mild, and full of sweet-
 They came twins from the womb, and still they live
 As if they would go twins too to the grave :
 Neither has any thing he calls his own,
 But of each other's joys as griefs partaking :
 So very honestly, so well they love,
 As they were only for each other born.

ERN. Never was parent in an offspring happier.
 He has a daughter too, whose blooming age
 Promises goodness equal to her beauty.

PAUL. And as there is a friendship 'twixt the brethren,
 So has her infant nature chosen too
 A faithful partner of her thoughts and wishes,
 And kind companion of her harmless pleasures.

ERN. You mean the beauteous orphan, fair MONIMIA?

PAUL. The same, the daughter of the brave CHAMONT.
 He was our lord's companion in the wars;
 Where such a wond'rous friendship grew between 'em
 As only death could end : CHAMONT's estate
 Was ruin'd in our late and civil discords.
 Therefore unable to advance her fortune,

He

The UNHAPPY MARRIAGE.

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He left his daughter to our master's care ;
To such a care as she scarce lost a father.

ERN. Her brother to the emperor's wars went early,
To seek a fortune or a noble fate ;
Whence he with honor is expected back,
And mighty marks of that great prince's favour.

PAUL. Our master never would permit his sons,
To launch for fortune in th' uncertain world,
But told them to avoid both courts and camps,
Where dilatory fortune plays the jilt
With the brave, noble, honest, gallant man,
To throw herself away on fools and knaves.

ERN. They both have forward, gen'rous, active spirits.
'Tis daily their petition to their father,
To send them forth where glory's to be gotten ;
They cry they're weary of their lazy home,
Restless to do something that fame may talk of.
To day they chas'd the boar, and near this time
Should be return'd.

PAUL. O that's a royal sport !
We yet may see the old man in a morning,
Lusty as health, come ruddy to the field,
And there pursue the chace as if he meant
To o'ertake time, and bring back youth again. *Exeunt.*

Enter CASTALIO, POLYDORE, and PAGE.

CAST. POLYDORE ! our sport
Has been to day much better for the dangor ;
When on the brink the foaming boar I met,
And in his side thought to have lodg'd my spear,
The d'sp'rate savage rush'd within my force,
And bore me headlong with him down the rock.

POL. But then——

CAST. Ay then, my brother, my friend POLYDORE,
Like *Perseus*, mounted on his winged steed,
Came on, and down the dangerous precipice leapt
To save CASTALIO. 'Twas a God-like act.

POL. But when I came, I found you conqueror.
Oh my heart danc'd to see your danger past !
The heat and fury of the chace was cold,
And I had nothing in my mind but joy.

CAST. So, POLYDORE, methinks we might in war
Rush on together ; thou should'st be my guard.

And

8 The ORPHAN; Or,

And I be thine; what is't could hurt us then?
Now half the youth of *Europe* are in arms,
How fulsome must it be to stay behind,
And die of rank diseases here at home!

POL. No, let me purchase in my youth renown,
To make me lov'd and valu'd when I'm old.
I would be busy in the world and learn,
Not like a coarse and useless dunghill-weed,
Fix'd to one spot, and rot just as I grow.

CAST. Our father
Has ta'en himself a surfeit of the world,
And cries it is not safe that we should taste it.
I own I have duty ever pow'rful in me;
And tho' I'd hazard all to raise my name,
Yet he's so tender and so good a father,
I could not do a thing to cross his will.

POL. CASTALIO, I have doubts within my heart,
Which you and only you can satisfy:
Will you be free and candid to your friend?

CAST. Have I thought my POEYDOR should not
What can this mean? [know?]

POL. Nay, I'll conjure you too;
By all the strictest bonds of faithful friendship,
To shew your heart as naked in this point
As you would purge you of your sins to heav'n.

CAST. I will.

POL. And should I chance to touch it nearly, bear it
With all the suff'rance of a tender friend.

CAST. As calmly as the wounded patient bears
The artist's hand that ministers his cure.

POL. That's kindly said. You know our father's ward,
The fair MONIMIA. Is your heart at peace?
Is it so guarded that you could not love her?

CAST. Suppose I should.

POL. Suppose you should not, brother.

CAST. You'd say, I must not.

POL. That would sound too roughly
'Twixt friends and brothers, such as we too are.

CAST. Is love a fault?

POL. In one of us it may be:
What if I love her?

CAST. Then I must inform you-

lov'd

I lov'd her first, and cannot quit the claim,
But will preserve the birth right of my passions.

POL. You will.

CAST. I will.

POL. No more, I've done :

CAST. Why not ?

POL. I told you I had done ;

But you CASTALIO wou'd dispute it.

CAST. No,

Not with my POLYDORÉ ; though I must own
My nature obstinate, and void of suff'rance.

Love reigns a very tyrant in my heart,
Attended on his throne by all his guards
Of furious wishes, fears and nice suspicions.
I could not bear a rival in my friendship,
I am so much in love, and fond of thee.

POL. Yet you would break this friendship !

CAST. Not for crowns.

POL. But for a toy you would, a woman's toy.

Unjust CASTALIO.

CAST. Prithee, where's my fault ?

POL. You love MONIMIA.

CAST. Yes.

POL. And you would kill me,
If I'm your rival.

CAST. No, sure, we're such friends,
So much one man, that our affections too
Must be united, and the same as we are.

POL. I doat upon MONIMIA.

CAST. Love her still ;
Win, and enjoy her.

POL. Both of us cannot.

CAST. No matter
Whose chance it proves ; but let's not quarrel for't.

POL. You would not wed MONIMIA, would you ?

CAST. Wed her !

No ! were she all desire could wish, as fair
As would the vainest of her sex be thought,
With wealth beyond what woman's pride cou'd waste,
She should not cheat me of my freedom. Marry !
When I am old and weary of the world,
I may grow desp'rate,

And

10 The ORPHAN; Or,

And take a wife to mortify withal.

POL. It is an elder brother's duty so
To propagate his family and name :

You would not have your's die and bury'd with you ?

CAST. Meer vanity, and silly dotage all.

No, let me live at large, and when I die——

POL. Who shall possess th' estate you leave ?

CAST. My friend,

If he survives me, or if not, my king,
Who may bestow't again on some brave man,
Whose honesty and services deserve one.

POL. 'Tis kindly offer'd.

CAST. By yon heav'n, I love

My POLYDORE beyond all worldly joys,
And would not shock his quiet to be blest
With greater happiness than man e'er tasted.

POL. And by that heav'n eternally I swear,
To keep the kind CASTALIO in my heart.

Whose shall MONIMIA be ?

CAST. No matter whose.

POL. Were you not with her privately last night ?

CAST. I was, and should have met her here again ;
But th' opportunity shall now be thine ;
Myself will bring thee to the scene of love :
But have a care, by friendship I conjure thee,
That no false play be offer'd to thy brother.
Urge all thy pow'rs to make thy passion prosper,
But wrong not mine.

POL. Heav'n blast me if I do.

CAST. If't prove thy fortune, POLYDORE, to conquer,
(For thou hast all the arts of fine persuasion !)
Trust me, and let me know thy love's success,
That I may ever after stifle mine.

POL. Tho' she be dearer to my soul than rest
To weary pilgrims, or to miser's gold,
To great men power, or wealthy cities pride,
Rather than wrong CASTALIO, I'd forget her.
For if ye powers have happiness in store,
When ye would shower down joys on POLYDORE,
In one great blessing all your bounty send,
That I may never lose so dear a friend.

(Ex. CAST. POL. Manet PAGE.

Enter

The UNHAPPY MARRIAGE.

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Enter MONIMIA.

MON. So soon return'd from hunting? this fair day,
Seems as if sent t' invite the world abroad.

Pas'd not CASTALIO and POLYDORE this way?

PAGE. Madam, just now.

MON. Sure some ill fate's upon me.

Distrust and heaviness sit round my heart.

And apprehensions shock my tim'rous soul.

Why was I not laid in my peaceful grave

With my poor parents, and at rest as they are?

Instead of that I am wand'ring into cares.

CASTALIO! O CASTALIO! thou has caught

My foolish heart; and like a tender child,

That trusts his play things to another hand,

I fear its harm, and fain would have it back.

Come near, CORDELIO, I must chide you, Sir.

PAGE. Why, Madam, have I done you any wrong?

MON. I never see you now; you have been kinder;

Sat by my bed, and sung me pretty songs:

Perhaps I've been ungrateful, here's money for you:

Will you oblige me? shall I see you oft'ner?

PAGE. Madam, indeed I'd serve you with my soul;

But in a morning when you call me to you,

As by your bed I stand and tell you stories,

I am ashamed to see your swelling breasts,

It makes me blush, they are so very white.

MON. O men for flattery and deceit renown'd!

Thus when you're young, ye learn it all like him.

Till as your years increase, that strengthens too,

T' undo poor maids, and make our ruin easy.

Tell me, CORDELIO, for thou hast often heard

Their friendly converse, and their bosom secrets,

Sometimes at least, have they not talk'd of me?

PAGE. Oh, Madam, very wickedly have they talk'd!

But I'm afraid to name it: for they say

Boys must be whipt that tell their master's secrets.

MON. Fear not, CORDELIO! it shall ne'er be known;

For I'll preserve the secret as 'twere mine;

POLYDORE cannot be so kind as I.

I'll furnish thee for all thy harmless sports

With pretty toys, and thou shalt be my page.

PAGE. And truly, Madam, I had rather be so.

Methinks

Methinks you love me better than my lord,
For he was never half so kind as you are.
What must I do?

MON. Inform me how thou hast heard
CASTALIO and his brother use my name.

PAGE. With all the tenderness of love.
You were the subject of their last discourse.
At first I thought it would have fatal prov'd;
But as the one grew hot the other cool'd,
And yielded to the frailty of his friend;
At last, after much struggling 'twas resolved——

MON. What, good CORDELIO?

PAGE. Not to quarrel for you.

MON. I would not have 'em, by my dearest hopes,
I would not be the argument of strife.
But surely my CASTALIO won't forsake me,
And make a mockery of my easy love.
Went they not together?

PAGE. Yes, to seek you, Madam.

CASTALIO promis'd Polydore to bring him
Where he alone might meet you
And fairly try the fortune of his wishes.

MON. Am I then grown so cheap, just to be made
A common stake, a prize for love in jest?
Was not CASTALIO very loth to yield it,
Or was it POLYDORE's unruly passion
That heighten'd the debate?

PAGE. The fault was POLYDORE's.

CASTALIO play'd with love, and smiling shew'd
The pleasure, not the pangs of his desire.
He said no woman's smiles should buy his freedom;
And marriage is a mortifying thing.

MON. Then I am ruin'd if CASTALIO's false;
Where is there faith or honor to be found?

Ye gods, that guard the innocent, and guide
The weak, protect, and take me to your care.
Oh but I love him: there's the rock will wreck me!
Why was I made with all my sex's softness,
Yet, want the cunning to conceal its follies?
I'll see CASTALIO, tax him with his falsehoods,
Be a true woman, rail, protest my wrongs;
Resolve to hate him, and yet love him still.

Enter

The UNHAPPY MARRIAGE.

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Enter CASTALIO and POLYDORE;

He comes, the conqueror comes: lie still, my heart
And learn to bear thy injuries with scorn.

CAST. Madam, my brother begs he may have leave
To tell you something that concerns you nearly;
I leave you as becomes me and withdraw.

MON. My lord CASTALIO!

CAST. Madam!

MON. Have you purpos'd
To abuse me palpably? what means this usage?
Why am I left with POLYDORE alone?

CAST. He best can tell you. Business of importance
Calls me away, I must attend my father.

MON. Will you leave me thus?

CAST. But for a moment.

MON. It has been otherwise? the time has been,
When business might have stay'd, and I been heard.

CAST. I could for ever hear thee; but this time
Matters of such odd circumstances press me,
That I must go—— *(Exit CAST.)*

MON. Then go, and if't be possible, for ever.
Well, my lord POLYDORE, I guess your business,
And read the ill natur'd purpose in your eyes.

POL. If to desire you more than misers' wealth,
Or dying men an hour of added life;
If softest wishes and a heart more true
Than ever suffer'd yet for love disdain'd,
Speak an ill-nature, you accuse me justly.

MON. Talk not of love, my lord, I cannot hear it.

POL. Who can behold such beauty and be silent?
Desire first taught us words: man, when created,
At first alone long wander'd up and down,
Forlorn, and silent as his vassal beasts:

But when a heav'n-born maid, like you appear'd,
Strange pleasure fill'd his eyes, and fir'd his heart,
Unloos'd his tongue, and his first talk was love.

MON. The first created pair, indeed were blest;
They were the only objects of each other,
Therefore he courted her; and her alone;
But in this peopled world of beauty, where
There's roving-room, where you may court, and ruin
A thousand more, why need you talk to me?

B

POL.

Enter

14 The ORPHAN; Or,

POL. O! I could talk to thee for ever; thus
Eternally admiring, fix and gaze
On those dear eyes! for ever glance they send
Darts through my soul, and almost gives enjoyment.

MON. How can you labour thus for my undoing?
I must confess indeed, I owe you more
Than ever I can hope to think to pay.
There always was a friendship 'twixt our families;
And therefore when my tender parents dy'd,
Whose ruin'd fortunes too expir'd with them,
Your father's bounty, and his pity, took me,
A poor and helpless orphan to his care.

POL. 'Twas heav'n ordain'd it so, to make me happy.
Hence with this peevish virtue, 'tis a cheat,
And those who taught it first were hypocrites.
Come, these soft tender limbs were made for yielding.

MON. Here on my knees, by heav'n's blest power I
fwear, [kneels.]

If you persist, I ne'er henceforth will see you,
But rather wander through the world a beggar,
And live on sordid scraps at proud mens' doors:
For tho' to fortune lost I'll still inherit
My mother's virtues, and my father's honor.

POL. Intolerable vanity! your sex
Was never in the right; y'are always false,
Or silly, even your dresses are not more
Fantastic than your appetites: you think
Of nothing twice; opinion you have none.
To-day y're nice; to-morrow not so free;
Now smile, then frown, now sorrowful, then glad:
Now pleas'd, now not; and all you know not why!
Virtue you affect; inconstancy's your practice,
And when your loose desires once get dominion,
No hungry churl feeds coarser at a feast:
Every rank fool goes down——

MON. Indeed, my lord,
I own my sex's follies; I have 'em all,
And to avoid its fault, must fly from you;
Therefore believe me, could you raise me high
As most fantastic woman's wish could reach,
And lay all nature's riches at my feet,
I'd rather run a savage in the woods

Among

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Among brute beasts grown wrinkled and deform'd,
As wildness and most rude neglect could make me,
So I might still enjoy my honor safe
From the destroying wiles of faithless men——(Exit.

POL. Who'd be that sordid foolish thing call'd man,
To cringe thus, fawn and flatter for a pleasure,
Which beasts enjoy so very much above him?
The lusty bull ranges thro' all the field,
And from the herd singling his female out,
Enjoys her, and abandons her at will.
It shall be so, I'll yet possess my love,
Wait on, and watch her loose unguarded hours:
Then when her roving thoughts have been abroad,
And brought in wanton wishes to her heart;
I th' very minute when her virtue nods,
I'll rush upon her in a storm of love,
Bear down her guard of honor all before me,
Surfeit on joys till even desire grows sick;
Then by long absence liberty regain,
And quite forget the pleasure and the pain.

(Ex. POL. and PAGE.)

ACT. II. SCENE I.

Enter ACASTO, CASTALIO, POLYDOR, Attendants.

Ac. **T**O-day has been a day of glorious sport.
When you, CASTALIO, and your brother left
Forth from the thickets rush'd another boar, [me,
So large he seem'd the tyrant of the woods,
With all his dreadful bristles rais'd up high,
They seem'd a grove of spears upon his back;
Foaming he came at me, where I was posted,
But to observe which way he'd lead the chase.
Whetting his huge long tusks, and gaping wide,
As if he already had me for his prey;
Till brandishing my well pois'd javelin high,
With this old executing arm, I struck
The ugly brindled monster to the heart.

B 2

CAST.

CAST. The actions of your life were always wond'rous:

ACAST. No flattery, boy; an honest man can't live by't.
It is a little sneaking art, which knaves
Use to cajole and soften fools withal.

If thou hast flattery in thy nature, out with't:

Or send it to a court, for there 'twill thrive.

POL. Why there?

ACAST. 'Tis next to money, current there?

To be seen daily in as many forms

As there are sorts of vanities, and men:

The superstitious statesman has his sneer

To smooth a poor man off with that can't bribe him;

The grave dull fellow of small business sooths

The humourist, and will needs admire his wit.

Who without spleen could see a hot-brain'd atheist

Thanking a surly doctor for his sermon;

Or a grave counsellor meet a smooth young lord,

Squeeze him by the hand, and praise his good com-
plexion?

POL. Courts are the places where best manners flourish;

Where the deserving ought to rise, and fools

Make shew. Why should I vex and chafe my spleen,

To see a gaudy coxcomb shine, when I

Have seen enough to sooth him in his follies,

And ride him to advantage when I please?

ACAST. Who merit ought indeed to rise i' th' world,
But no wise man that's honest should expect it.

What man of sense would rack his generous mind

To practise all the base formalities

And forms of business, force a grave starch'd face,

When he's a very libertine in's heart?

Seem not to know this or that man in public,

When privately perhaps they meet together,

And lay the scene of some brave fellow's ruin.

Such things are done—

CAST. Your lordship's wrongs have been

So great, that you with justice may complain:

But suffer us whose younger minds ne'er felt

Fortune's deceits, to court her as she's fair:

Were she a common mistress, kind to all,

Her worth would cease, and all the world grow idle.

ACAST.

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Ac. Go to, ye're fools, and know me not ; I've learn'd
Long since to bear revenge, or scorn my wrongs,
According to the value of the doer.
You both would fain be great, and to that end
Desire to do things worthy your ambition.
Go to the camp, preferment's noble mart,
Where honor ought to have the fairest play, you'll find
Corruption, envy, discontent and faction,
Almost in every band : how many men
Have spent their blood in their dear country's service,
Yet now pine under want, while selfish slaves,
That ev'n would cut their throats, whom now they
fawn on,

Like deadly locusts eat the honey up :
Which those industrious bees so hardly toil'd for ?

CAST. These precepts suit not with my active mind,
Methinks I would be busy.

POL. So would I,
Not loiter out my life at home, and know
No farther than one prospect gives me leave.

ACAST. Busy your minds then, study arts and men :
Learn how to value merit, tho' in rags,
And scorn a proud ill-natur'd knave in office.

Enter SERINA, MONIMIA, and MAID.

SER. My lord, my father !

ACAST. Blessings on my child,
My little cherub, what hast thou to ask me ?

SER. I bring you, Sir, most glad and welcome news :
The young CHAMONT, whom you've so often wish'd for,
Is just arriv'd and entering.

ACAST. By my soul,
And all my honors, he's most dearly welcome,

Enter CHAMONT.

Let me receive him like his Father's friend.
Welcome, thou relict, of the best lov'd man,
Welcome from all the turmoils, and the hazards
Of certain danger, and uncertain fortune ;
Welcome as happy tidings after fears.

[you :

CHAM. Words would but wrong the gratitude I owe
Should I begin to speak, my soul's so full,
That I should talk of nothing else all day.

MON. My brother !

CHAM. O my Sister! let me hold thee
 Long in mine arms: I've not beheld thy face
 These many days! by night I've often seen thee
 In gentle dreams, and satisfy'd my soul
 With fancy'd joys, till morning cares awak'd me.
 Another sister, sure it must be so;
 Tho' I remember well, I had but one:
 But I feel something in my heart that prompts,
 And tells me she has claim and interest there.

ACAST. Young soldier, you've not only study'd war,
 Courtship I see has been your practice too,
 And may not prove unwelcome to my daughter.

CHAM. Is she your daughter? then my heart told true!
 And I'm at least her brother by adoption:
 For you have made yourself to me a father,
 And by that patent I have leave to love her.

SER. MONIMIA, thou hast told me men are false,
 Will flatter, feign, and make 'an art of love:
 Is CHAMONT so? no, sure he's more than man,
 Something that's near divine, and truth dwells in him.

ACAST. Thus happy, who would envy pompous pow'r,
 The luxury of courts, or wealth of cities?
 Let there be joy through all the house this day!
 In every room let plenty flow at large,
 It is the birth-day of my royal master.
 You have not visited the court, CHAMONT,
 Since your return?

CHAM. I have no business there,
 I have not flavish temperance enough
 To attend a favourite's heels, and watch his smiles;
 Bear an ill office done me to my face,
 And thank the Lord that wrong'd me for his favour.

ACAST. This you could do, [To his sons.]

CAST. I'd serve my prince.

ACAST. Who'd serve him?

CAST. I would, my lord.

POL. And I; both would.

ACAST. Away!

He needs not any servants such as you;
 Serve him! he merits more than man can do!
 He is so good, praise cannot speak his worth:
 So merciful, sure he ne'er slept in wrath,

So just, that were he but a private man,
He could not do a wrong. How would you serve him?

CAST. I'd serve him with my fortune here at home,
And serve him with my person in his wars;
Watch for him, fight for him, bleed for him.

POL. Die for him,
As every true born loyal subject ought.

ACAST. Let me embrace you both. Now by the souls
Of my brave ancestors, I'm truly happy,
For this be ever blest my marriage day,
Blest be your mother's memory that bore you,
And doubly blest be that auspicious hour
That gave ye birth. Yes, my aspiring boys,
Ye shall have business; when your master wants you,
You cannot serve a nobler; I have serv'd him;
In this old body yet the marks remain
Of many wounds. I've with this tongue proclaim'd
His right, even in the face of rank rebellion;
And when a foul-mouth'd traitor once profan'd
His sacred name, with my good sabre drawn,
Ev'n at the head of all his giddy rout,
I rush'd and clove the rebel to the chine.

Enter Servant.

SER. My lord, th' expected guests are just arrived.

ACAST. Go you, and give 'em welcome and reception.

[Exit CAST. and POLYD.]

CHAM. My lord, I stand in need of your assistance
In something that concerns my peace and honor.

ACAST. Spoke like the son of that brave man I lov'd;
So freely, friendly we convers'd together.

Whate'er it be, with confidence impart it.
Thou shalt command my fortune and my sword.

CHAM. I dare not doubt your friendship nor your just
Your bounty shewn to what I hold most dear, [rice,
My orphan sister, must not be forgotten!

ACAST. Prithee, no more of that, it grates my nature.

CHAM. When our dear parents dy'd, they dy'd together,
One fate surpriz'd 'em, and one grave receiv'd 'em:

My father with his dying breath bequeath'd

Her to my love: my mother as she lay

Languishing by him, call'd me to her side,

Took me in her fainting arms, wept, and embrac'd me,

Then

'Then press'd me close, and as she observ'd my tears,
Kiss'd 'em away; said she, CHAMONT, my son,
By this and all the love I ever show'd thee,
Be careful of MONIMIA, watch her youth,
Let not her wants betray her to dishonor;
Perhaps kind heav'n may raise some friend. Then sigh'd,
Kiss'd me again; so bless'd us, and expir'd.
Pardon my grief.

ACAST. It speaks an honest nature.

CHAM. The friend heav'n rais'd was you, you took
An infant to the desert world expos'd, [her up
And prov'd another parent.

ACAST. I have not wrong'd her.

CHAM. Far be it from my fears.

ACAST. Then why this argument?

CHAM. My lord, my nature's jealous, and you'll bear

ACAST. Go on. [it

CHAM. Great spirits bear misfortunes hardly:
Good offices claim gratitude: and pride,
Where pow'r is wanting, will usurp a little,
And make us (rather than be thought behind-hand)
Pay over price.

ACAST. I cannot guess your drift;
Distrust you me?

CHAM. No, but I fear her weakness:
May make her pay a debt at any rate;
And to deal freely with your lordship's goodness,
I've heard a story lately much disturbs me. [found

ACAST. Then first charge her, and if th' offence be.
Within my reach, tho' it should touch my nature,
In my own offspring, by the dear remembrance
Of thy brave father, whom my heart rejoic'd in,
I'd prosecute it with severest vengeance. [Exit.

CHAM. I thank you from my soul.

MON. Alas, my brother!
What have I done? and why do you abuse me?
My heart quakes in me; in your settled face
And clouded brow, methinks I see my fate;
You will not kill me!

CHAM. Prithee, why dost talk so?

MON. Look kindly on me then, I cannot bear
Severity, it daunts and does amaze me!

My heart's so tender, should you charge me roughly,
I should but weep and answer you with sobbing.
But use me gently like a loving brother,
And search through all the secrets of my soul.

CHAM. Fear nothing, I will shew myself a brother,
A tender, honest, and a loving brother.
You have not forgot our father?

MON. I shall never.

CHAM. Then you'll remember too, he was a man,
That liv'd up to the standard of his honor,
And priz'd that jewel more than mines of wealth;
He'd not have done a shameful thing but once,
Tho' kept in darkness from the world, and hidden,
He could not have forgot it to himself;
This was the only portion that he left us;
And I more glory in't, than if possesst
Of all that ever fortune threw on fools.
'Twas a large trust, and must be manag'd nicely;
Now if by any chance, MONIMIA,
You have foil'd this gem, and taken from its value,
How will you account with me?

MON. I challenge envy,
Malice and all the practices of hell,
To censure all the actions of my past
Unhappy life, and taint me if they can!

CHAM. I'll tell thee then; three nights ago, as I
lay musing in my bed, all darkness round me,
A sudden damp struck to my heart, cold sweat
Dew'd all my face, and trembling seiz'd my limbs;
My bed shook under me, the curtains started,
And to my tortur'd fancy there appeared
The form of thee, thus beauteous as thou art,
Thy garment flowing loose, and in each hand
A wanton lover, who by turns caress'd thee
With all the freedom of unbounded pleasure;
I snatch'd my sword, and in the very moment
Darted it at the phantom, strait it left me:
Then rose and call'd for light, when, O dire omen!
I found my weapon had the arras pierc'd,
Just where that famous tale was interwoven;
How the unhappy *Theban* slew his father.

MON. And for this cause my virtue is suspected;
Because

Because in dreams your fancy has been ridden,
I must be tortur'd waking?

CHAM. Have a care;

Labour not to be justified too fast:

Hear all, and then let justice hold the scale.

What follow'd was the riddle that confounded me:

Thro' a close lane, as I pursu'd my journey,

And meditated on the last night's vision,

I spy'd a wrinkled hag, with age grown double,

Picking dry sticks, and mumbling to herself;

Her eyes with scalding rheum were gall'd and red;

Cold palsie shook her head, her hands seem'd wither'd,

And on her crooked shoulders had she wrapt

The tatter'd remnant of an old strip'd hanging,

Which serv'd to keep her carcase from the cold;

So there was nothing of a piece about her:

Her lower weeds were all o'er coarsely patch'd

With different colour'd rags, black, red, white, yellow,

And seem'd to speak variety of wretchedness;

I asked her of my way, which she inform'd me!

Then crav'd my charity, and bade me hasten

To save a sister: at that word I started.

MON. The common cheat of beggars ev'ry day!

They flock about our doors, pretend to gifts

Of phrophecy, and telling fools their fortunes.

CHAM. Oh! but she told me such a tale MONIMIA,

As in it bore great circumstance of truth;

CASTALIO and POLYDORE, my sister.

MON. Hah!

CHAM. What, alter'd! does your courage fail you?

Now by my father's soul the witch was honest;

Answer me, if thou hast not lost to them

Thy honor at a sordid game?

MON. I will,

I must; so hardly my misfortune loads me,

That both have offer'd me their love's most true.

CHAM. And 'tis as true too they have both undone
I thought so—— [thee.

MON. Tho' they both with earnest vows

Have prest my heart, if e'er in thought I yielded

To any but CASTALIO——

CHAM. But CASTALIO!

MON.

MON. Still will you cross the line of my discourse?
Yes, I confess that he has won my soul
By gen'rous love, and honorable vows:
Which he this day appointed to compleat,
And make himself by holy marriage mine.

CHAM. Art thou then spotless? hast thou still preserv'd
Thy virtue white, without a blot untaint'd? [prays!

MON. When I'm unchaste, may heav'n reject my
Or more, to make me wretched, may you know it!

CHAM. O then, MONIMIA, art thou dearer to me
Than all the comforts ever yet blest man;
And let not marriage bait thee to thy ruin.
Trust not a man; we are by nature false,
Dissembling, subtle, cruel and unconstant:
When a man talks of love with caution trust him;
But if he swears, he'll certainly deceive.
I charge thee let no more CASTALIO sooth thee:
Avoid it as thou would'st preserve the peace
Of a poor brother, to whose soul thou'rt precious.

MON. I will! [ones

CHAM. Appear as cold when next you meet, as great
When merit begs, then shalt thou see how soon
His heart will cool and all his pains grow easy. [Exit.

MON. Yes, I will try him; torture him severely;
For oh, CASTALIO! thou too much hast wrong'd me,
In leaving me to POLYDORE's ill usage.
He comes; and now for once, oh, love, stand neuter!
Whilst a hard part's perform'd; for I must tempt,
Wound his soft nature, tho' my own heart akes for't.

[Exit.

Enter CASTALIO.

CAST. MONIMIA, MONIMIA!—she's gone;
And seem'd to part with anger in her eyes:
I am a fool, and she has found my weakness:
She uses me already like a slave
Fast bound in chains, to be chastis'd at will:
'Twas not well done to trifle with my brother,
I might have trusted him with all the secret,
Open'd my silly heart, and shewn it bare.
But then he loves her too; but not not like me.
I am a doating honest slave, designed
For bondage, marriage-bonds, which I have sworn
To wear: It is the only thing I e'er

Hid

Hid from his knowledge ; and he'll sure forgive
The first transgression of a wretched friend,
Betray'd to love, and all its little follies.

Enter POLYDORE and PAGE at the door.

POL. Here place yourself, watch my brother thro'ly;
If he should chance to meet MONIMIA, make
Just observation of each word and action;
Pass not one circumstance without remark:
Sir, 'tis your office, do't and bring me word. [Ex. POL.]

Enter MONIMIA.

CAST. MONIMIA, my angel, 'twas not kind
To leave me like a turtle here alone,
To droop and mourn the absence of my mate.
When thou art from me every place is desert,
And I, methinks, am savage and forlorn;
Thy presence only 'tis can make me blest,
Heal my unquiet mind, and tune my soul.

MON. Oh the bewitching tongues of faithless men!
'Tis thus the false *Hyæna* makes her moan,
To draw the pitying traveller to her den;
Your sex are so, such false dissemblers all,
With sighs and plaints y'entice poor women's hearts,
And all that pity you are made your prey.

CAST. What means my love? oh! how have I deserv'd
This language from the sovereign of my joys!
Stop, stop those tears, MONIMIA, for they fall
Like baneful dew from a distemper'd sky;
I feel 'em chill me to the very heart.

MON. O! you are false, CASTALIO, most forlorn;
Attempt no further to delude my faith,
My heart is fix'd, and you shall shake't no more.

CAST. Who told you so? What hell-bred villain durst
Profane the sacred business of my love.

MON. Your brother, knowing on what terms I'm here,
Th' unhappy object of your father's charity,
Licentiously discours'd to me of love,
And durst affront me with his brutal passion.

CAST. 'Tis I have been to blame, and only I,
False to my brother, and unjust to thee.
For, Oh! he loves thee too, and this day own'd it:
Taxt me with mine, and claim'd a right above me.

MON. And was your love so very tame to shrink,

Or,

Or, rather than lose him, abandon me!

CAST. I knowing him precipitate and rash,
To calm his heat and to conceal my happiness,
Seem'd to comply with his unruly will;
Talk'd as he talk'd, and granted all he ask'd;
Lest he in rage might have our loves betray'd,
And I for ever had MONIMIA lost.

MON. Could you then? did you? can you own it too?
'Twas poorly done, unworthy of yourself:
And I can never think you meant me fair.

CAST. Is this MONIMIA? surely no! 'till now
I ever thought her dove-like, soft and kind.
Who trusts his heart with woman's surely lost:
You were made fair on purpose to undo us,
Whilst greedily we snatch th' alluring bait,
And ne'er distrust the poison that it hides.
When love ill plac'd would find a means to break,
It never wants pretences nor excuse.

MON. Man therefore was a lord-like creature made,
Rough as the winds, and as inconstant too:
A lofty aspect giv'n him for command,
Easily soften'd when he would betray:
Like conquering tyrants, you our breasts invade,
Where you are pleas'd to forage for a while;
But soon you find new conquests out, and leave
The ravag'd province ruinate and waste.
If so, CASTALIO, you have serv'd my heart,
I find that desolation's settled there,
And I shall ne'er recover peace again.

CAST. Who can hear this, and bear an equal mind?
Since you will drive me from you, I must go:
But oh! MONIMIA, when th' hast banish'd me,
No creeping slave, tho' tractable and dull,
As artful woman for her ends would chuse,
Shall ever doat as I have done: For oh!
No tongue my pleasure or my pain can tell,
'Tis heaven to have thee, and without thee hell

MON. CASTALIO! stay, stay, we must not part. I find
My rage ebbs out, and love flows in apace.
These little quarrels love must needs forgive,

C

They

They rouse up drowsy thoughts, and wake the soul.
 Oh! charm me with the music of thy tongue;
 I'm ne'er so blest, as when I hear thy vows,
 And listen to the language of my heart.

CAST. Where am I! surely paradise is round me!
 Sweets planted by the hand of heav'n grow here,
 And ev'ry sense is full of thy perfection.
 'To hear thee speak might calm a madman's frenzy;
 'Till by attention he forgot his sorrows;
 But to behold thy eyes, th' amazing beauties
 Might make him rage again with love, as I do.
 To touch thee's heav'n, but to enjoy thee, oh!
 Thou nature's whole perfection in one piece!
 Sure framing thee heav'n took unusual care,
 As its own beauty it design'd thee fair;
 And form'd thee by the best lov'd angel there. (Ex.)

ACT III. SCENE I.

Enter POLYDORE and PAGE.

POL. **W**ERE they so kind? express it to me all
 In words, 'twill make me think I saw it too.

PAGE. At first I thought they had been mortal foes;
 MONIMIA rag'd, CASTALIO grew disturb'd,
 Each thought the other wrong'd, yet both so haughty,
 They scorn'd submission, tho' love all the while
 The rebel play'd and scarce could be contain'd.

POL. But what succeeded?

PAGE. Oh 'was word'rous pretty!
 For of a sudden all the storm was past,
 A gentle calm of love succeeded it:
 MONIMIA sigh'd and blush'd, CASTALIO swore;
 As you, my lord, I well remember, did
 To my young sister in the orange grove,
 When I was first prefer'd to be your page.

POL. Happy CASTALIO! Now, by my great soul,
 M' ambitious soul, that languishes to glory,
 I'll have her yet, by my best hopes I will.
 She shall be mine in spite of all her arts.

But,

But, for CASTALIO, why was I refus'd ?
 Has he supplanted me by some foul play ?
 Traduc'd my honor ? death ! he durst not do't.
 It must be so ; we parted, and he met her,
 Half to compliance brought by me, surpriz'd
 Her sinking virtue till she yielded quite :
 So poachers basely pick up tir'd game,
 Whilst the fair hunter's cheated of his prey.
 Boy !

PAGE. My lord !

POL. Go to your chamber and prepare your lute ;
 Find out some song to please me, that describes
 Women's hypocrisies, their subtle wiles,
 Betraying smiles, feign'd tears, inconstancies,
 Their painted outsides, and corrupted minds,
 The sum of all their follies, and their fallhoods.

Enter SERVANT.

SERV. O the unhappiest tydings tongue e'er told !

POL. The matter !

SERV. O ! your father, my good master,
 As with his guests he sat in mirth rais'd high,
 And chas'd the goblet round the joyful board,
 A sudden trembling seiz'd on all his limbs ;
 His eyes distorted grew ; his visage pale ;
 His speech forsook him ; life itself seem'd fled,
 And all his friends are waiting now about him.

Enter ACASTO, leaning on two.

ACAST. Support me, give me air, I'll yet recover ;
 'Twas but a slip decaying nature made,
 For she grows weary near her journey's end,
 Where are my sons ? come near my POLYDOR :
 Your brother ! Where's CASTALIO ?

SERV. My Lord,
 I've search'd, as you commanded, all the house,
 He and MONIMIA are not to be found.

ACAST. Notto be found ! then where are all my friends ?
 I hope they'll pardon an unhappy fault ['tis well
 M' unmannerly infirmity has made !
 Death could not come in a more welcome hour,
 For I'm prepar'd to meet him, and methinks
 Would live and die with all my friends about me.

Enter CASTALIO.

CAST. Angels preserve my dearest father's life,
Bless it with long uninterrupted days!

Oh! may he live till time itself decay,
Till good men wish him dead, or I offend him!

ACAST. Thank you, CASTALIO; give me both your
And bear me up, I'd walk; so now methinks [hands,
I appear as great as *Hercules* himself,
Supported by the pillars he had rais'd.

CAST. My Lord, your chaplain.

ACAST. Let the good man enter,

CHAP. Heaven guard your lordship, and restore your

ACAST. I have provided for you if I die. [health.

No fawning! 'tis a scandal to thy office.

My sons, as thus, united ever live,

And for the estate, you'll find, when I am dead,

I have divided it betwixt you both.

Equally parted as you shar'd my love;

Only to sweet *MONIMIA* I've bequeath'd

Ten thousand crowns, a little portion for her,

To wed her honorably as she's born.

Be not less friends because you're brothers; shun

The man that's singular, his mind's unsound,

His spleen o'er weighs his brains; but above all,

Avoid the politic, the factious fool,

The busy, buzzing, talking, harden'd knave;

The quaint smooth rogue that sins against his reason;

Calls faucey, loud suspicion, public zeal,

And mutiny the dictates of his spirit:

Be very careful how ye make new friends,

Men read not morals now, 'ho' 'twas a custom,

But all are to their fathers' vices born,

And in their mothers' ignorance are bred.

Let marriage be the last mad thing ye do,

For all the sins and follies of the past.

If you have children never give them knowledge,

'Twill spoil their fortune, fools are all the fashion:

If you've religion, keep it to yourselves,

Atheists will else make use of toleration,

And laugh ye out on't; never shew religion,

Except ye mean to pass for knaves of conscience,

And

And cheat believing fools that think ye honest.

Enter SERINA.

SER. My father!

ACAST. My heart's darling!

SER. Let my knees

Fix to the earth. Ne'er let my eyes have rest,
But wake and weep till heaven restore my father!

ACAST. Rise to my arms; and thy kind prayers are an-
For thou'rt a wond'rous extract of all goodness, [swerd;
Born for my joy, and no pain's felt when near thee.
CHAMONT!

Enter CHAMONT.

CHAM. My lord, may't prove not an unlucky omen:
Many I see are waiting round about you;
And I am come to ask a blessing too.

ACAST. May'ft thou be happy!

CHAM. Where?

ACAST. In all thy wishes!

CHAM. Confirm me so, and make this fair one mine.
I am unpractis'd in the trade of courtship,
And know not how to deal love out with art;
Onsets in love seem blest like those in war,
Fierce, resolute, and done with all the force:
So I would open my whole heart at once,
And pour out all the abundance of my soul.

ACAST. What says SERINA? can'ft thou love a sol-
One born to honor, and to honor bred; [dier?
One that has learn'd to treat ev'n foes with kindness;
To wrong no good-man's fame, nor praise himself.

SER. Oh! name not love, for that's ally'd to joy,
And joy must be a stranger to my heart,
When you're in danger. May CHAMONT's good fortune
Render him lovely to some happier maid!
Whilst I at friendly distance see him blest,
Praise the kind gods, and wonder at his virtues.

ACAST. CHAMONT, pursue her, conquer, and pos-
And, as my son, a third of all my fortune [sels her,
Shall be thy lot.

But keep thy eyes from wand'ring, man of frailty,
Beware the dangerous beauty of the wanton,

Shun their enticements ; ruin, like a vulture,
 Waits on their conquests : Falshood too's their business,
 They put false beauty off to all the world ;
 Use false endearments to the fools that love 'em,
 And when they marry, to their silly husbands
 They bring false virtue, broken fame and fortune.

MON. Hear you that, my Lord ?

POL. Yes, my fair monitor, old men always talk thus,

ACAST. CHAMONT, you told me of some doubts that
 Are you yet satisfy'd that I am your friend ? [prest you :

CHAM. My Lord, I would not lose that satisfaction
 For any other blessing I could wish for.

As to my fears, already I have lost 'em ;
 They ne'er shall vex me more, nor trouble you.

ACAST. I thank you. Daughter, you must do so too.
 My friends, 'tis late, or we would yet be company.
 For my disorder seems all past and over,
 And I methinks begin to feel new health.

CHAM. Would you but rest, it might restore you quite.

ACAST. Yes, I'll to bed ; old men must humour weak-
 Let me have music then, to lull and chace [ness.
 This melancholy thought of death away,
 Good night ! my friends, heaven guard ye all ! good
 To-morrow, early we'll salute the day, [night !
 Find out new pleasures, and redeem lost time.

(Ex. all but CHAMONT and CHAPLAIN.)

CHAM. Hift, hift, Sir GRAVITY, a word with you.

CHAP. With me, Sir ?

CHAM. If you're at leisure, Sir ; we'll waste an hour,
 'Tis yet too soon to flee, and it will be charity
 To lend your conversation to a stranger.

CHAP. Sir, you're a soldier ?

CHAM. Yes.

CHAP. I love a soldier,

And had been one myself, but my old parents
 Would make me what you see me ; yet I'm honest
 For all I wear this black.

CHAM. And that's a wonder.

Have you had long dependance on this family ?

CHAP. I have not thought it so, because my time's
 Spent pleasantly, my lord's not haughty nor imperious,

Nor

Nor I gravely whimsical ; he has good nature,
And I have manners ;
His sons too are civil to me, because
I do not pretend to be wiser than they are,
I meddle with no man's business but my own ;
I rise in a morning early, study moderately,
Eat and drink chearfully, live soberly,
Take my innocent pleasures freely,
So meet with respect, and am not the jest of the family.

CHAM. I'm glad you are so happy.
A pleasant fellow this, and may be useful.
Knew you my father, the old CHAMONT ?

CHAP. I did, and was most sorry when we lost him.

CHAM. Why! did'st thou love him? [master's friend.

CHAP. Every body lov'd him; besides he was my

CHAM. I could embrace thee for that very notion,
If thou did'st love my father, I could think
Thou would'st not be an enemy to me.

CHAP. I can be no man's foe.

CHAM. Then prithee tell me ;

Think'st thou the lord CASTALIO loves my sister ?

Nay, never start. Come, come, I know thy office

Opens thee all the secrets of the family ;

Then if thou art honest, use this freedom kindly.

CHAP. Love your sister !

CHAM. Ay, love her.

CHAP. Sir, I never ask'd him,
And wonder you should ask it me.

CHAM. Nay, thou art an hypocrite ; is there not one
Of all thy tribe that's honest in your schools ?

The pride of your superiors makes you slaves :

Ye all live loathsome, sneaking, servile lives ;

Not free enough to practise generous truth,

Tho' ye pretend to teach it to the world.

CHAP. I would deserve a better thought from you.

CHAM. If thou would'st have me not condemn thy of-
And character, think all thy brethren knaves, [fice

Thy trade a cheat, and thou its worst professor ;

Inform me ; for I tell thee, priest, I'll know. [her.

CHAP. Either he loves her, or he much has wrong'd

CHAM.

CHAM. How! wrong'd her? have a care: for this
A scene of mischief to undo us all. [may lay
But tell me, wrong'd her, said'st thou?

CHAP. Ay, Sir, wrong'd her.

CHAM. This is a secret worth a monarch's fortune:
What shall I give thee for't? thou dear physician
Of sickly souls, unfold this riddle to me,
And comfort mine——

CHAP. I would hide nothing from you willingly.

CHAM. Nay, then again thou'rt honest. Would'st

CHAP. Yes, if I durst. [thou tell me?

CHAM. Why, what affrights thee?

CHAP. You do,

Who are not to be trusted with the secret.

CHAM. Why, I am no fool.

CHAP. So indeed you say.

CHAM. Prithee, be serious then.

CHAP. You see I am so,

And hardly shall be mad enough to night,
To trust you with my ruin.

CHAM. Art thou then

So far concern'd in't? what has been thy office?

Curse on that formal steady villain's face!

Just so do all bawds look; nay bawds, they say,

Can pray upon occasion, talk of heaven,

Turn up their gogling eye-balls, rail at vice,

Dissemble, lye, and preach like any priest.

Art thou a bawd?

CHAP. Sir, I am not often us'd thus.

CHAM. Be just then.

CHAP. So I will be to the trust
That's laid upon me.

CHAM. By the reverenc'd soul

Of that great honest man that gave me being,

Tell me but what thou know'st concerns my honor,

And if I e'er reveal it to thy wrong,

May this good sword ne'er do me right in battle!

May I ne'er know that blessed peace of mind

That dwells in good and pious men, like thee.

CHAP. I see your temper's mov'd, and I will trust you.

CHAM. Wilt thou?

CHAP.

CHAP. I will ; but if it ever 'scape you——

CHAM. It never shall.

CHAP. Swear then.

CHAM. I do by all

That's dear to me, by th' honor of my name,

And by that power I swear, it never shall.

[busy,

CHAP. Then this good day, when all the house was
When mirth and kind rejoicing fill'd each room,

As I was walking in the grove I met them.

[me :

CHAM. What ! met them in the grove together ? tell
How ? walking, standing, sitting, lying ? hah !

CHAP. I by their own appointment met them there,
Receiv'd their marriage vows, and join'd their hands.

CHAM. How ! married !

CHAP. Yes, Sir.

CHAM. Then my soul's at peace :

But why would you delay so long to give it.

CHAP. Not knowing what reception it may find
With old ACASTO ; may be I was too cautious
To trust the secret from me.

CHAM. What's the cause

I cannot guess, tho' 'tis my sister's honor,

I do not like this marriage,

Huddl'd i'th' dark, and done too much at venture ;

The business looks with an unlucky face.

Keep still the secret, for it ne'er shall 'scape me,

Not ev'n to them, the new match'd pair. Farewell.

Believe my truth, and know me for thy friend. (*Exeunt.*)

Enter CASTALIO and MONIMIA.

CAST. Young CHAMONT, and the CHAPLAIN ! sure 'tis

No matter what's contriv'd, or who consulted, [they !

Since my MONIMIA's mine ; tho' this sad look

Seems no good boding omen to our bliss,

Else, prithee, tell me, why that down cast look ?

Why that sad sigh, as if thy heart were breaking ?

MON. CASTALIO, I am thinking what we've done,

The heav'nly powers were sure displeas'd to day !

For at the ceremony as we stood,

And as your hand was kindly join'd with mine,

And the good priest pronounc'd the sacred words,

Passion grew big, and I could not forbear,

Tears

Tears drown'd my eyes, and trembling seiz'd my limbs,
What should that mean?

CAST. Oh! thou art tender all!
Gentle and kind as sympathizing nature!
When a sad story has been told, I've seen
Thy little breasts with soft compassion swell'd,
Shove up and down, and heave like dying birds;
But now let fear be banish'd, think no more
Of danger, for there's safety in my arms;
Let them receive thee: heaven grows jealous now;
Sure she's too good for any mortal creature!
I could grow wild and praise thee even to madness.
But wherefore do I dally with my bliss?
The night's far spent, and day draws on apace:
To bed, my love, and wake till I come thither.

POL. So hot, my brother? (POLYDOR at the door.)

MON. 'Twill be impossible:
You know your father's chamber's next to mine,
And the least noise will certainly alarm him.

CAST. Impossible! Impossible! alas!
Is't possible to live an hour without thee?
Let me behold those eyes, they'll tell me truth.
Hast thou no longing? art thou still the same
Cold icy virgin? no, thou'rt altered quite.
Haste, haste to bed, and let loose all thy wishes.

MON. 'Tis but one night, my lord; I pray be rul'd:

CAST. Try if thou hast power to stop a flowing tide,
Or in a tempest make the seas be calm:
And when that's done, I'll conquer my desires.
No more, my blessing: what shall be the sign?
When shall I come? for to my joys I'll steal,
As if I ne'er had paid my freedom for them.

MON. Just three soft strokes upon the chamber-door,
And at that signal you shall gain admittance:
But speak not the least word; for if you should,
'Tis surely heard, and all will be betray'd.

CAST. Oh! doubt it not, MONIMIA; our joys
Shall be as silent as the extatic bliss
Of souls that by intelligence converse:
Immortal pleasures shall our senses drown,
Thought shall be lost, and ev'ry pow'r dissolv'd:

Away,

Away, my love; first take this kiss. Now haste,
I long for that to come, yet grudge each minute past.

(Exit Mon.)

My brother wand'ring too so late this way!

POL. CASTALIO!

CAST. My POLYDORÉ, how dost thou?
How does our father, is he well recover'd?

POL. I left him happily compos'd to rest;
He's still as gay as if his life were young.
But how does fair MONIMIA?

CAST. Doubtless well.

A cruel beauty with her conquests pleas'd
Is always joyful, and her mind in health.

POL. Is she the same MONIMIA still she was?
May we not hope she's made of mortal mould?

CAST. She's not a woman else:
Tho' I'm grown weary of this tedious hoping:
We've in a barren desert stray'd too long.

POL. Yet may relief be unexpected found,
And love's sweet manna cover all the field.
Met ye to day?

CAST. No, she has still avoided me,
Her brother too is jealous of her gown,
And has been hinting something to my father.
I wish I had never meddled with the matter,
And would enjoin thee, POLYDORÉ—

POL. To what?

CAST. To leave this peevish beauty to herself.

POL. What, quit my love? as soon I'd quit my post
In fight, and like a coward run away.
No, by my stars, I'll chace her till she yields
To me, or meets her rescue in another.

CAST. Nay, she has beauty that might shake the leagues
Of mighty kings, and set the world at odds;
But I have wond'rous reasons on my side,
That wou'd persuade thee, were they known.

POL. Then speak 'em.

What are they? came ye to her window here
To learn 'em now? CASTALIO, have a care;
Use honest dealings with your friend and brother.
Believe me, I'm not with my love so blinded,

But

But can discern your purpose to abuse me,
Quit your pretences to her.

CAST. Grant I do?

You love capitulations, POLYDORE,
And but upon conditions would oblige me.

POL. You say you've reasons. Why are they con-

CAST. To-morrow I may tell you. [ceal'd?

It is a matter of such circumstance,
As I must well consult e'er I reveal:
But prithee cease to think I would abuse thee,
'Till more be known.

POL. When you, CASTALIO, cease
To meet MONIMIA, unknown to me,
And then deny it slavishly, I'll cease
To think CASTALIO faithless to his friend.
Did I not see you part this very moment?

CAST. It seems you've watch'd me then?

POL. I scorn the office.

CAST. Prithee, avoid a thing thou may'st repent.

POL. That is, henceforward making leagues with you.

CAST. Nay, if y'are angry, POLYDORE, good night.

[Exit.

POL. Good night, CASTALIO, if y'are in such haste.
He little thinks I've over-heard th' appointment.
But to his chamber's gone to wait a-while,
Then come and take possession of my love.
This is the utmost point of all my hopes;
Or now she must, or never can be mine.
Oh! for a means now how to counterplot,
And disappoint this happy elder brother.
In every thing we do, or undertake,
He soars above me, mount what height I can,
And keeps the start of me in birth.
CORDELIO!

Enter PAGE.

PAGE. My lord!

POL. Come hither, boy,

Thou hast a pretty forward lying face,
And may'st in time expect preferment; canst thou
Pretend to secrecy, cajole and flatter
Thy master's follies, and assist his pleasures?

PAGE.

PAGE. My lord, I could do any thing for you,
And ever be a very faithful boy.

Command whate'er's your pleasure, I'll observe.

Be it to run, to watch ; or to convey

A letter to a beauteous lady's bosom ;

At least I am not dull, and soon should learn.

POL. 'Tis pity then thou should'st not be employ'd.

Go to my brother, he's in's chamber now

Undressing, and preparing for his rest.

Find out some means to keep him up a while :

Tell him a pretty story that may please

His ear ; invent a tale, no matter what :

If he should ask of me, tell him I'm gone

To bed, and sent you there to know his pleasure,

Whether he'll hunt to-morrow. Well said, POLYDORE,

Dissemble with thy brother : That's one point.

But do not leave him till he's in his bed ;

Or if he chance to walk again this way,

Follow and do not quit him, but seem fond

To do him little offices of service.

Perhaps at last it may offend him ; then

Retire, and wait till I come in. Away :

Succeed in this, and be employ'd again.

PAGE. Doubt not, my lord, he has been always kind

To me : Would often set me on his knees :

Then give me sweet-meats, call me pretty boy,

And ask me what the maids talk'd of at nights.

POL. Run quickly then, and prosperous be thy wishes.

(Exit PAGE.)

Here I'm alone and fit for mischief. Now,

To cheat this brother, will't be honest that ?

I heard the sign she order'd him to give.

Oh for the art of *Proteus*, but to change

The happy POLYDORE to blest CASTALIO !

She's not so well acquainted with him yet,

But I may fit her arms as well as he.

Then when I'm happily possess'd of more

Than sense can think, all loosen'd into joy,

To hear my disappointed brother come,

And give the unregarded signal ; oh !

What a malicious pleasure will that be !

Just three soft strokes against the chamber door.
 But speak not the least word, for if you should,
 It's surely heard, and we are both betray'd.
 How I adore a mistress that contrives
 With care to lay the business of her joys!
 One that has wit to charm the very soul,
 And give a double relish to delight!
 Blest heav'n, assist me but in this dear hour,
 And my kind stars be but propitious now,
 Dispose of me hereafter as you please.

MONIMIA! MONIMIA! *[Gives the Sign.*

MAID *at the window*] Who's there?

POL. 'Tis I.

MAID. My Lord CASTALIO?

POL. The same.

How does my love, my dear MONIMIA?

MAID. Oh!

She wonders much at your unkind delay,
 You've staid so long, that at each little noise
 The wind but makes, she asks if you are coming.

POL. Tell her I'm here, and let the door be open'd.

[MAID descends.

Now boast, CASTALIO, triumph now and tell
 Thyself strange stories of a promis'd bliss.

[The door unbolts.

It opens, hah! what means my trembling flesh?

Limbs, do your office, and support me well.

Bear me but to her, then fail me if you can. *[Exit.*

Enter CASTALIO and PAGE.

PAGE. Indeed, my Lord, 'twill be a lovely morning:
 Pray let us hunt.

CAST. Go, you're an idle pratler,
 I'll stay at home to-morrow; if your Lord
 Thinks fit, he may command my hounds: Go leave me,
 I must to bed.

PAGE. I'll wait upon your lordship,
 If you think fit, and sing you to repose.

CAST. No, my kind boy, the night is too far wasted.
 My senses too are quite disrob'd of thought,
 And ready all with me to go to rest;
 Good night, commend me to my brother.

PAGE.

PAGE. Oh!

You never heard the last new song I learn'd;
It is the finest, prettiest song indeed,
Of my lord and my lady, you know who, that were caught
Together, you know where. My lord, indeed it is.

CAST. You must be whip'd, youngster, if you get
such songs as those are.

What means this boy's impertinence to night?

PAGE. Why, what must I sing, pray, my dear lord?

CAST. Psalms, child, Psalms.

PAGE. Oh dear me! boys that go to school learn
psalms, but pages that are better bred sing lampoons.

CAST. Well leave me; I'm weary.

PAGE. Oh! but you promis'd me last time I told you
what colour my lady MONIMIA's stockings were of, and
that she garter'd 'em above knee, that you would
give me a little horse to go a hunting upon, so you did.
I'll tell you no more stories, except you keep your word
with me.

CAST. Well go, you trisler, and to-morrow ask me.

PAGE. Indeed, my Lord, I can't abide to leave you.

CAST. Why, wer't thou instructed to attend me?

PAGE. No, no, indeed, indeed, my Lord, I was not!
But I know what I know. [this mean?

CAST. What dost thou know? death! what can all?

PAGE. Oh! I know who loves somebody.

CAST. What is that to me, boy?

PAGE. Nay, I know who loves you too.

CAST. That's a wonder. Prithee tell it me.

PAGE. 'Tis—'tis—I know who—but will you give
me the horse then?

CAST. I will, my child.

PAGE. It is my lady MONIMIA, look you, but don't
you tell her I told you, she'll give me no more play-
things then. I heard her say so as she lay a-bed, man.

CAST. Talk'd she of me when in her bed, CORDELIO?

PAGE. Yes, and I sung her the song you made too.
And she did so sigh, and so look with her eyes; and her
breasts did so lift up and down; I could have found in my
heart to have beat 'em, for they made me ashamed.

CAST. Hark! what's the noise?

Take this, begone, and leave me.

You knave, you little flatterer, get you gone. [Ex. PAUL.

Surely it was a noise. Hush!—only fancy.

For all is hush'd, as nature were retir'd,

And the perpetual motion standing still;

So much she from her work appears to cease,

And ev'ry warring element's at peace.

All the wild herds are in their coverts couch'd;

The fishes to their banks or ouze repair'd,

And to the murmurs of the waters sleep:

The fleeting air's at rest, and feels no noise,

Except of some soft breaths among the trees,

Rocking the harmless birds that rest upon 'em.

'Tis now that guided by my love I go,

To take possession of MONIMIA's charms.

Sure POLYDORÉ's by this time gone to bed.

At midnight thus the us'rer steals untrack'd,

To make a visit to his hoarded gold.

And feast his eyes upon the shining mammon. [Knocks.

She hears me not, sure she already sleeps.

Her wishes could not brook my long delay,

And her poor heart has beat itself to rest. [Knocks again.

MONIMIA! my angel—hah—not yet—

How long's the shortest moment of delay

To a heart impatient of its pangs like mine,

In sight of ease and panting to the goal! [Knocks again.

Once more—

MAID. Who's there,

That comes thus rudely to disturb our rest?

CAST. 'Tis I.

MAID. Who are you? what's your name?

CAST. Suppose

The lord CASTALIO:

MAID. I know you not.

The lord CASTALIO has no business here.

CAST. Hah! have a care. What can this mean! who

Thou art, I charge thee to MONIMIA fly, [e'er

Tell her I'm here, and wait upon my doom.

MAID. Whoe'er you are, you may repent this outrage,

My lady must not be disturb'd. Good night.

CAST. She must; tell her she shall, go, I'm in haste,

And

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And bring her tidings from the state of love ;
They're all in consultation met together,
How to reward my truth, and crown her vows:

MAID. Sure the man's mad.

CAST. Or this will make me so :

ObeY me, or by all the wrongs I suffer,
I'll scale the window and come in by force,
Let the sad consequence be what it will.
This creature's trifling folly makes me mad.

MAID. My lady's answer is, you may depart.
She says she knows you : You are POLYDOR,
Sent by CASTALIO, as you were to day,
To affront and do her violence again.

CAST. I'll not believe it.

MAID. You may, Sir.

CAST. Curses blast thee !

MAID. Well 'tis a fine cool evening, and I hope
May cure the raging fever in your blood.
Good night.

CAST. And farewell all that's just in woman !
This is contriv'd, a studied trick to abuse
My easy nature, and torment my mind.
Sure now th' has bound me fast, she means to lord it,
To rein me hard, and ride me at her will,
Till by degrees she shape me into fool
For all her future uses. Death and torment !
'Tis impudence to think my soul will bear it.
Oh ! I could grow even wild and tear my hair.
'Tis well, MONIMIA, that thy empire's short ;
Let but to-morrow, but to-morrow come
And try if all thy arts appease my wrong.
Till when be this detested place my bed, [Lies down.
Where I will ruminate on woman's ills,
Laugh at myself, and curse th' inconstant sex.
Faithless MONIMIA ! O MONIMIA !

f Enter ERNESTO.

ERN. Either
My sense has been deluded, or this way
I heard the sound of sorrow ; 'tis late night,
And none, whose mind's at peace, would wander now.

D 3

CAST.

CAST. Who's there?

ERN. A friend.

CAST. If thou art so, retire,
And leave this place, for I would be alone.

ERN. CASTALIO! my lord, why in this posture,
Stretch'd on the ground? your honest true old servant,
Your poor ERNESTO, cannot see you thus;
Rise, I beseech you.

CAST. If thou art ERNESTO,
As by thy honesty thou seem'st to be,
Once leave me to my folly.

ERN. I can't leave you,
And not the reason know of your disorders:
Remember how when young I in my arms
Have often borne you, pleas'd you in your pleasures,
And fought an early share in your affection.
Do not discard me now, but let me serve you.

CAST. Thou can'st not serve me.

ERN. Why?

CAST. Because my thoughts
Are full of woman; thou, poor wretch, are past 'em.

ERN. I hate the sex.

CAST. Then I'm thy friend, ERNESTO.
I'd leave the world for him that hates a woman,
Woman the fountain of all human frailty!
What mighty ills have not been done by woman?
Who was't betray'd the capital? a woman.
Who lost *Mark Antony* the world? a woman.
Who was the cause of a long ten years war,
And laid at last old *Troy* in ashes? woman;
Destructive, damnable, deceitful woman!
Woman to man first as a blessing giv'n,
When innocence and love were in their prime:
Happy a while in *Paradise* they lay,
But quickly woman long'd to go astray:
Some foolish new adventure needs must prove,
And the first devil she saw, she chang'd her love;
To his temptations lewdly she inclin'd
Her soul, and for an apple damn'd mankind.

[Ex.

ACT

ACT. IV. SCENE I.

ACASTO *solus.*

ACAST. **B**LEST be the morning that has brought
me health ;

A happy rest has soften'd pain away,

And I'll forget it, tho' my mind's not well.

A heavy melancholy clogs my heart.

I droop and sigh, I know not why : dark dreams,

Sick fancy's children, have been over busy,

And all the night play'd farces in my brains :

Methought I heard the mid-night raven cry :

Wak'd with th' imagin'd noise, my curtains seem'd

To start, and at my feet my sons appear'd

Like ghosts, all pale and stiff : I strove to speak

But could not : suddenly the forms were lost,

And seem'd to vanish in a bloody cloud.

'Twas odd, and for the present shook my thoughts,

But 'twas th' effect of my distemper'd blood ;

And when the health's disturb'd the mind's unruly.

Enter POLYDORE.

Good morning, POLYDORE.

POL. Heav'n keep your lordship.

ACAST. Have you seen CASTALIO to-day ?

POL. My Lord, 'tis early day ; he's hardly risen.

ACAST. Go, call him up, and meet me in the chapel.

[Exit. POL.]

I cannot think all hath gone well to-night ;

For as I waking lay (and sure my sense

Was then my own) methought I heard my son

CASTALIO's voice ; but it seem'd low and mournful,

Under my window too I thought I heard it.

M' untoward fancy could not be deceiv'd

In every thing ; and I will search the truth out.

Enter MONIMIA and her MAID.

Already up, MONIMIA ! you rose

Thus early, surely to outshine the day !

Or

Or was there any thing that cross'd your rest?

They were naughty thoughts that would not let you sleep.

MON. Whatever are my thoughts, my lord, I've
By your example to correct the ills, [learn'd
And morn, and evening, give up the account.

ACAST. Your pardon, sweet one, I upbraid you not.
Or if I would, you are so good I could not;
Tho' I'm deceiv'd, or you are more fair to-day;
For beauty's heighen'd in your cheeks, and all
Your charms seem up, and ready in your eyes.

MON. The little share I have's so very mean,
That it may easily admit addition;
Tho' you, my lord, should most of all beware
To give it too much praise, and make me proud.

ACAST. Proud of an old man's praise! no MONIMIA!
But if my pray'rs can work thee any good,
Thou shalt not want the largest share of 'em.
Heard you no noise last night?

MON. Noise, my good lord!

ACAST. Ay! about mid-night.

MON. Indeed, my lord, I don't remember any.

ACAST. You must sure! went you early to your rest?

MON. About the wonted hour. Why this enquiry! (*Asi.*)

ACAST. And went your maid to bed too?

MON. My lord, I guess so:

I've seldom known her disobey my orders.

ACAST. Sure goblins then, or fairies haunt the dwell-
I'll have enquiry made through all the house, [ling:
But I'll find out the cause of these disorders.

Good day to thee, MONIMIA—I'll to chapel. [*Ex. ACAST.*]

MON. I'll but dispatch some orders to my woman,
And wait upon your lordship there.

I fear the priest has play'd us false; if so,
My poor CASTALIO loses all for me.

I wonder tho', he made such haste to leave me.

Was't not unkind, FLORELLA? surely 'twas!

He scarce afforded one kind parting word;

But went away so cold, the kifs he gave me

Seem'd the forc'd compliment of fated love,

Would I had never marry'd?

MAID. Why?

MON.

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MON. Methinks

The scene's quite alter'd; I am not the same.
I've bound up for myself a weight of cares,
And how the burden may be borne, none knows.
A husband may be jealous, rigid, false,
And should CASTALIO e'er prove so to me;
So tender is my heart, so nice my love,
I would ruin and distract my rest for ever.

MAID. Madam he's coming.

MON. Where, FLORELLA? where?
Is he returning? to my chamber lead
I'll meet him there? the mysteries of our love
Should be kept private as religious rites,
From the unhallow'd view of common eyes.

[Ex. MON. and MAID.

Enter CASTALIO.

CAST. Wish'd morning's come! and now upon the plain
And distant mountains, where they feed their flocks,
The happy shepherds leave their homely huts,
And with their pipes proclaim the new-born day.
The lusty swain comes with his well fill'd scrip
Of healthful viands, which, when hunger calls,
With much content and appetite he eats,
To follow in the fields his daily toil,
And dress the grateful glebe, that yields him fruits.
The beasts that under the warm hedges slept,
And weather'd out the cold bleak night, are up,
And, looking tow'rs the neighb'ring pastures, raise
Their voice, and bid their fellow brutes good-morrow.
The chearful birds too, on the tops of trees,
Assemble all their choirs, and with their notes
Salute and welcome up the rising sun.
There's no condition sure so curs'd as mine;
I'm marry'd! 'Death! I'm sped. How like a dog
Look'd *Herculus*, thus to a distaff chain'd.

MONIMIA! oh MONIMIA!

Enter MONIMIA and MAID.

MON. I come,
I fly to my ador'd CASTALIO's arms.
My wished lord, may ev'ry morn begin
Like this! and with our days our loves renew.

Now

Now I may hope y^e are satisfy'd——

(Looking languishing on him.)

CAST. I am,
Well satisfy'd that thou art—oh——

MON. What? speak:

Art thou not well, CASTALIO? come lean
Upon my breasts, and tell me where's thy pain.

CAST. 'Tis here; 'tis in my head; 'tis in my heart:
'Tis every where; it rages like a madness;
And I must wonder how my reason holds:
Nay, wonder not, MONIMIA; the slave
You thought you had secur'd within my breast
Is grown a rebel, and has broke his chain,
And now he walks there like a lord at large.

MON. Am I not then your wife, your lov'd MONIMIA?
What ails my love?

CAST. Whate'er thy dreams have been,
Thy waking thoughts ne'er mean'd CASTALIO well.
No more, MONIMIA, of your sex's arts,
They're useless-all: I'm not that pliant tool,
That necessary utensil you'd make me.
I know my charter better—I'm a man,
Obstinate man: and will not be enslav'd.

MON. You shall not fear't: Indeed my nature's easy
I'll ever live your most obedient wife,
Nor ever any privilege pretend
Beyond your will; for that shall be my law;
Indeed I will not.

CAST. Nay, you shall not, madam;
By yon bright heav'n, you shall not; all the day
I'll play the tyrant, and at night forsake thee;
'Till by afflictions and continu'd cares,
I've worn thee to a homely household drudge:
Nay, if I've any too, thou shalt be made
Subservient to all my looser pleasures;
For thou hast wrong'd CASTALIO.

MON. No more:
Oh! kill me here, or tell me my offence;
I'll never quit you else; but on these knees,
Thus follow you all day, till they're worn bare,

And

The UNHAPPY MARRIAGE.

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And hang upon you like a drowning creature.

CASTALIO—

CAST. Away; last night; last night.

MON. It was our wedding night.

CAST. No more; forget it.

MON. Why? do you then repent?

CAST. I do.

MON. O heav'n!

And will you leave me thus? help, help, FLORELLA;

(He drags her to the door and breaks from her.)

Help me to hold this yet lov'd cruel man,

Oh my heart breaks—I'm dying, oh—stand off;

I'll not indulge this woman's weakness: still

Chaf'd, and fomented; let my heart swell on,

Till with its injuries it burst, and shake

With the dire blow the poison on this earth.

MAID. What sad mistake has been the cause of this?

MON. CASTALIO! Oh how often has he sworn
Nature should change, the sun and stars grow dark,
E'er he would falsify his vows to me.

Make haste, confusion, then: sun, lose thy light.

And stars drop dead with horror to the earth:

For my CASTALIO's false——

MAID. Unhappy day!

MON. False as the wind, the water, or the weather;
Cruel as tygers o'er their trembling prey,
I feel him in my breast, he tears my heart,
And at each sigh he drinks the gushing blood.
Must I be long in pain?

Enter CHAMONT.

CHAM. In tears, MONIMIA?

MON. Whoe'er thou art,
Leave me alone to my belov'd despair.

CHAM. Lift up thy eyes, and see who comes to cheer
Tell me the story of thy wrongs, and then [thee.
See if my soul has rest till thou hast justice.

MON. My brother!

CHAM. Yes, MONIMIA, if thou think'st
That I deserve the name, I am thy brother.

MON. Oh, CASTALIO!

CHAM. Hah!

Name

Name me that name again! my soul's on fire
Till I know all: there's meaning in that name.
I know he is thy husband; therefore trust me
With all the following truth——

MON. Indeed, CHAMONT,
There's nothing in it but the fault of nature:
I'm often thus seiz'd heavily with grief,
I know not why.

CHAM. You use me ill, MONIMIA;
And I might think with justice most severely
Of this unfaithful dealing with your brother.

MON. Truly I'm not to blame: suppose I'm fond,
And grieve, for what as much may please another;
Should I upbraid the dearest friend on earth
For the first fault? you would not do so: would you?

CHAM. Not, if I'd cause to think it was a friend.

MON. Why do you then call this unfaithful dealing?
I ne'er conceal'd my soul from you before:
Bear with me now, and search my wounds no farther,
For ev'ry probing pains me to the heart. [vented.

CHAM. 'Tis sign there's danger in't, and must be pre-
Where's your new husband? still that thought disturbs
What, only answer me with tears? CASTALIO! [you.
Nay, now they stream.

Cruel, unkind CASTALIO! is't not so?

MON. I cannot speak; grief flows so fast upon me,
It choaks, and will not let me tell the cause.
Oh!

CHAM. My MONIMIA, to my soul thou'rt dear
As honor to my name; dear as the light
To eyes but just restor'd, and heal'd of blindness,
Why wilt thou not repose within my breast
The anguish that torments thee?

MON. Oh! I dare not.

CHAM. I have no friend but thee: we must confide
In one another: two unhappy orphans,
Alas we are; and when I see thee grieve,
Methinks it is a part of me that suffers [sing.

MON. Oh should'st thou know the cause of my lament-
I'm satisfy'd, CHAMONT, that thou would'st scorn me?
Thou would'st despise the abject lost MONIMIA,

No

No more would'st praise this wretched beauty. But
 When in some cell distracted, as I shall be,
 Thou see'st me lye; these unregarded locks
 Matted like Furies tresses; my poor limbs
 Chain'd to the ground, and 'stead of the delights
 Which happy lovers taste, my keeper's stripes,
 A bed of straw, and a coarse wooden dish
 Of wretched sustenance; when thus thou see'st me,
 Prithee have charity and pity for me.
 Let me enjoy this thought.

CHAM. Why wilt thou rack
 My soul so long, MONIMIA? ease me quickly!
 Or thou wilt run me into madness first.

MON. Could you be secret?

CHAM. Secret as the grave.

MON. But when I've told you, will you keep your fury
 Within its bounds? will you not do some rash
 And horrid mischief? for indeed, CHAMONT,
 You would not think how hardly I've been us'd
 From a near friend; from one that has my soul
 A slave, and therefore treats it like a tyrant.

CHAM. I will be calm; but has CASTALIO wrong'd
 Has he already wasted all his love? [thee?

What has he done? quickly; for I'm all trembling
 With expectation of a horrid tale.

MON. Oh! could you think it!

CHAM. What?

MON. I fear he'll kill me.

CHAM. Hah!

MON. Indeed I do, he's strangely cruel to me.
 Which, if it lasts, I'm sure must break my heart.

CHAM. What has he done?

MON. Most barbarously us'd me:
 Nothing so kind as he when in my arms:
 In thousand kisses, tender sighs and joys,
 Not to be thought again, the night was wasted;
 At dawn of day he rose, and left his conquest.
 But when we met, and I with open arms
 Ran to embrace the lord of all my wishes,
 Oh then!

CHAM. Go on!

E

Mon.

50 The ORPHAN; Or,

MON. He threw me from his breast,
Like a detested sin.

CHAM. How?

MON. As I hung too
Upon his knees, and begg'd to know the cause,
He dragg'd me like a slave upon the earth,
And had no pity on my cries.

CHAM. How! did he
Dash thee disdainfully away with scorn?

MON. He did; and more I fear, will ne'er be friends;
Tho' still I love him with unbated passion.

CHAM. What, throw thee from him?

MON. Yes, indeed he did.

CHAM. So may this arm
Throw him to the earth, like a dead dog despis'd;
Lameness and leprosie, blindness and lunacy,
Poverty, shame, pride, and the name of villain
Light on me, if CASTALIO, I forgive thee.

MON. Nay, now, CHAMONT, art thou unkind as he is?
Did'st thou not promise me thou would'st be calm?
Keep my disgrace conceal'd? why should'st thou kill him.
By all my love, this arm shall do him vengeance.
Alas! I love him still, and though I ne'er
Clasp him again within these longing arms,
Yet bless him, bless him (gods) where e'er he goes.

Enter ACASIO.

ACAST. Sure some ill fate is towards me! in my house
I only meet with oddness and disorder;
Each vassal has a wild distracted face!
And looks as full of business as a block-head
In time of danger: just this very moment
I met CASTALIO too——

CHAM. Then you met a villain.

ACAST. Hah!

CHAM. Yes, a villain.

ACAST. Have a care, young soldier,
How thou'rt too busy with ACASIO's fame;
I have a sword, my arm's good old acquaintance;
Villain to thee——

CHAM. Curse on thy scandalous age,
Which hinders me to rush upon thy throat,

And

The UNHAPPY MARRIAGE. 51

And tear the root up of that curfed bramble!

ACAST. Ungrateful ruffian! fure my good old friend
Was ne'er thy father; nothing of him's in thee:
What have I done in my unhappy age,
To be thus us'd? I scorn to upbraid thee, boy,
But I could put thee in remembrance——

CHAM. Do.

ACAST. I scorn it——

CHAM. No, I'll calmly hear the story,
For I would fain know all; to fee which fcale
Weighs moft—Hah! is not that good, old ACASTO?
What have I done? can you forgive this folly?

ACAST. Why do'ft thou ask it?

CHAM. It was the rude o'erflowing
Of too much paffion; pray, my lord, forgive me. (*Kneels.*)

ACAST. Mock me not, youth; I can revenge a wrong.

CHAM. I know it well; but for this thought of mine,
Pity a madman's frenzy, and forget it.

ACAST. I will; but henceforth, prithee be more kind.

(*Raifes him.*)

Whence came the caufe?

CHAM. Indeed, I've been to blame,
But I'll learn better; for you've been my father:
You've been her father too——(*Takes MON. by the hand.*)

ACAST. Forbear the prologue——
And let me know the fubftance of the tale.

CHAM. You took her up a little tender flower,
Juft fprouted on a bank, which the next froft
Had nipt; and with a careful loving hand,
Transplanted her into your own fair garden,
Where the fun always fhines: there long ſhe flouriſh'd,
Grew ſweet to ſenſe, and lovely to the eye,
'Till at the laſt a cruel ſpoiler came,
Cropt this fair roſe, and riſſed all its ſweetneſs,
Then caſt it like a loathſome weed away.

ACAST. You talk to me in parables, CHAMONT;
You may have known that I'm no wordy man;
Fine ſpeeches are the instruments of knaves,
Or fools, that uſe 'em, when they want good ſenſe;
But honeſty
Needs no diſguiſe nor ornament; be plain.

CHAM. Your son——

ACAST. I've two, and both I hope have honor.

CHAM. I hope so too—but—

ACAST. Speak.

CHAM. I must inform you
Once more, CASTALIO!

ACAST. Still, CASTALIO!

CHAM. Yes;

Your son, CASTALIO, has wrong'd MONIMIA.

ACAST. Hah! wrong'd her?

CHAM. Marry'd her?

ACAST. I'm sorry for't.

CHAM. Why sorry?

By yon blest heav'n, there's not a lord
But might be proud to take her to his heart.

ACAST. I'll not deny't.

CHAM. You dare not, by the gods,
You dare not, all your family combin'd
In one damn'd falshood to out-do CASTALIO,
Dare not deny't.

ACAST. How has CASTALIO wrong'd her?

CHAM. Ask that of him: I say, my sister's wrong'd;
MONIMIA, my sister, born as high
And noble as CASTALIO—do her justice,
Or by the gods, I'll lay a scene of blood,
Shall make this dwelling horrible to nature.
I'll do't; hark you, my lord, your son CASTALIO,
Take him to your closet, and there teach him manners.

ACAST. You shall have justice.

CHAM. Nay—I will have justice,
Who'll sleep in safety that has done me wrong?
My lord, I'll not disturb you to repeat
The cause of this; I beg you to (preserve
Your house's honor) ask it of CASTALIO.

ACAST. I will.

CHAM. 'Till then farewell—

(Exit.)

ACAST. Farewell, proud boy.

MONIMIA!

MON. My lord!

ACAST. You are my daughter.

MON. I am, my lord, if you'll vouchsafe to own me.

ACAST.

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ACAST. When you'll complain to me, I'll prove a father. [Exit.]

MON. Now I'm undone for ever ; who on earth
Is there so wretched as MONIMIA ?
First by CASTALIO cruelly forsaken :
I've lost ACASTO too : His parting frowns
May well instruct me, rage is in his heart ;
I shall be next abandon'd to my fortune,
Thrust out a naked wanderer to the world,
And branded for the mischievous MONIMIA ;
What will become of me ? my cruel brother
Is framing mischiefs too for aught I know,
That may produce bloodshed, and horrid murder ;
I would not be the cause of one man's death,
To reign the empress of the earth ; nay, more,
I'd rather lose for ever my CASTALIO,
My dear, unkind CASTALIO.

Enter POLYDORE.

POL. MONIMIA weeping !
So morning dews on new-born roses lodge,
By the sun's amorous heat to be exhal'd.
I come, my love, to kiss all sorrow from thee.
What mean these sighs ; and why thus beats thy heart ?

MON. Let me alone to sorrow : 'tis a cause
None e'er shall know ; but it shall with me die.

POL. Happy, MONIMIA, he to whom these sighs,
These tears, and all these languishings are paid :
I am no stranger to your dearest secret ;
I know your heart was never meant for me,
That jewel's for an elder brother's price.

MON. My lord !

POL. Nay, wonder not ; last night I heard
His oaths, your vows, and to my torments saw
Your wild embraces : heard th' appointment made :
I did, MONIMIA, and I curst the sound.
Wilt thou be sworn, my love ? wilt thou be ne'er
Unkind again ?

MON. Banish such fruitless hopes !
Have you sworn constancy to my undoing ?
Will you be ne'er my friend again ?

POL. What means my love?

MON. Away; what meant my lord
Last night?

POL. Is that a question now to be demanded?
I hope, MONIMIA was not much displeased.

MON. Was it well done to treat me like a prostitute,
T' assault my lodging at the dead of night,
And threaten me if I deny'd admittance?—
You said you were CASTALIO——

POL. By those eyes
It was the same; I spent my time much better.
I tell thee, ill-natur'd fair one, I was posted
To more advantage on a pleasant hill
Of springing joy, and everlasting sweetness.

MON. Hah—have a care——

POL. Where is the danger near me?

MON. I fear you're on a rock will wreck your quiet,
And drown your soul in wretchedness for ever;
A thousand horrid thoughts crowd on my memory.
Will you be kind and answer me one question?

POL. I'd trust thee with my life on these soft breasts;
Breathe out the choicest secrets of my heart;
Till I had nothing in it left but love.

MON. Nay, I conjure you by the gods, and angels;
By the honor of your name, that's most concern'd,
Tell me, POLYDOR, and tell me truly,
Where did you rest last night?

POL. Within thy arms
I triumph'd: rest had been my foe.

MON. 'Tis done——

(She faints.)

POL. She faints away; no help! who waits? a curse
Upon my vanity that could not keep
The secret of my happiness in silence.
Confusion! we shall be surpriz'd anon.
And consequently all must be betray'd.

MONIMIA! she breathes—MONIMIA,——

MON. Well——

Let mischiefs multiply! let every hour
Of my loath'd life yield me increase of horror!
Oh let the sun to these unhappy eyes
Ne'er shine again, but be eclips'd for ever!

May

May every thing I look on seem a prodigy,
To fill my soul with terrors, till I quite
Forget I ever had humanity,
And grow a curser of the works of nature!

POL. What means all this?

MON. Oh, POLYDORE! if all
The friendship e'er you vow'd to good CASTALIO
Be not a falshood, if you ever lov'd
Your brother, you've undone yourself and me.

POL. Which way can ruin reach the man that's rich
As I am in possession of thy sweetness?

MON. Oh, I'm his wife.

POL. What says MONIMIA! hah!
Speak that again.

MON. I am CASTALIO's wife?

POL. His marry'd, wedded wife?

MON. Yesterday's sun
Saw it perform'd.

POL. And have I then enjoy'd
My brother's wife?

MON. As surely as we both
Must taste of misery, that guilt is thine.

POL. Must we be miserable then?

MON. Oh!

POL. Oh! thou may'st yet be happy.

MON. Could'st thou be
Happy with such a weight upon thy soul?

POL. It may be yet a secret: I'll go try
To reconcile and bring CASTALIO to thee,
Whilst from the world I take myself away,
And waste my life in penance for my sin.

MON. Then thou would'st more undo me: heap a load
Of added sins upon my wretched head:
Would'st thou again have me betray thy brother,
And bring pollution to his arms? curst thought!
Oh then shall I be mad, indeed?

POL. Nay, then
Let us embrace, and from this very moment
Vow an eternal misery together.

MON. And wilt thou be a very faithful wretch?
Never grow fond of cheerful peace again?

Wilt thou with me study to be unhappy,
And find out ways how to increase affliction?

POT. We'll institute new arts unknown before
To vary plagues and make them look like new ones;
First, if the fruit of our detested joy,
A child be born, it shall be murder'd——

MON. No,
Sure that may live.

POT. Why?

MON. To become a thing,
More wretched than its parents, to be branded
With all our infamy, and curse its birth.

POT. That's well contriv'd, then thus let's go toge-
Full of our guilt, distracted where to roam, [ther;
Like the first wretch'd pair expell'd their Paradise.
Let's find some place where adders nest in winter,
Loathsome and venomous: where poisons hang
Like gums against the walls; where witches meet
By night, and feed upon some pamper'd imp,
Fat with the blood of babes; there we'll inhabit,
And live up to the height of desperation;
Desire shall languish like a withering flower,
And no distinction of the sex be thought of.
Horrors shall fright me from the pleasing harms,
And I'll no more be caught with beauty's charms,
But when I'm dying take thee in my arms. [Exeunt.] }

ACT V. SCENE I.

CASTALIO *lying on the Ground.*

S O N G.

I.

COME all ye youths, whose hearts e'er bleed,
By cruel beauty's pride,
Bring each a garland on his head,
Let none his sorrows hide,
But hand in hand around me move,
Singing the saddest tales of love;

And

*And see, when your complaints ye join
If all your wrongs can equal mine.*

II.

*The happiest mortal once was I,
My heart no sorrows knew,
Pity the pain with which I die,
But ask not whence it grew.
Yet if a tempting fair you find
That's very lovely, very kind,
Tho' bright as heav'n, whose stamp she bears,
Think of my fate and shun her snares.*

CAST. See where the deer trot after one another,
Male, female, father, daughter, mother, son,
Brother and sister, mingled all together;
No discontent they know, but in delightful
Wildness and freedom, pleasant springs, fresh herbage,
Calm harbours, lusty health and innocence,
Enjoy their portion: if they see a man,
How will they run together all, and gaze
Upon the monster——

Once in a season too they taste of love;
Only the beast of reason is its slave,
And in that folly drudges all the year.

Enter ACASTO.

ACAST. CASTALIO! CASTALIO!

CAST. Who's there

So wretched but to name CASTALIO?

ACAST. I hope my message may succeed.

CAST. My father,

'Tis joy to see you, tho' where sorrow's nourish'd.

ACAST. I'm come in beauty's cause; you guess the rest.

CAST. A woman: if you love my peace of mind,
Name not a woman to me; but to think

Of woman were enough to taint my brains,
Till they ferment to madness! oh, my father!

ACAST. What ails my boy?

CAST. A woman is the thing
I would forget, and blot from my remembrance.

ACAST. Forget MONIMIA!

CAST. She to chuse. MONIMIA!

The

The very sound's ungrateful to my sense. (will hide

ACAST. This might seem strange, but you I've found
Your heart from me: you dare not trust your father.

CAST. No more, MONIMIA.

ACAST. Is she not your wife?

CAST. So much the worse: who loves to hear of wife?
When you would give all worldly plagues a name
Worse than they have already, call 'em wife;
But a new married wife's a teeming mischief,
Full of herself; why, what a deal of horror
Has that poor wretch to come, that wedded yesterday?

ACAST. CASTALIO, you must go along with me,
And see MONIMIA.

CAST. Sure my lord but mocks me;
Go see MONIMIA! pray, my lord, excuse me;
And leave the conduct of this part of life,
To my own choice.

ACAST. I say, no more dispute.
Complaints are made to me, that you have wrong'd her.

CAST. Who has complain'd?

ACAST. Her brother to my face proclaim'd her wrong'd,
And in such terms they've warm'd me.

CAST. What terms? her brother! heav'n? Where
learn'd he that?
What does she send her hero with defiance?
He durst not sure affront you.

ACAST. No, not much;
But——

CAST. Speak, what said he?

ACAST. That thou wert a villain:
Methinks I would not have thee thought a villain.

CAST. Shame on the ill manner'd brute; your age fe-
He durst not else have said so. [cured him;

ACAST. By my sword,
I would not see thee wrong'd, and bear it mildly:
'Tho' I have past my word she shall have justice.

CAST. Justice! to do her justice would undo her:
Think you this solitude I now have chosen,
Left joys just opening to my sense, sought here
A place to curse my fate in, measur'd out.

My grave at length, wish to have grown one-piece
With this cold clay, and all without a cause!

Enter CHAMONT.

CHAM. Where is the hero, famous and renown'd
For wronging innocence, and breaking vows;
Whose mighty spirit, and whose stubborn heart
No woman can appease, nor man provoke?

ACAST. I guess CHAMONT you come to seek CASTALIO.

CHAM. I come to seek the husband of MONIMIA.

CAST. The slave is here.

CHAM. I thought e'er now I've found you
Atoning for the ills you've done CHAMONT:
For you have wrong'd the dearest part of him.
MONIMIA, young lord, weeps in this heart;
And all the tears thy injuries have drawn
From her poor eyes, are drops of blood from hence.

CAST. Then thou'rt CHAMONT?

CHAM. Yes, and I hope no stranger
To great CASTALIO.

CAST. I've heard of such a man
That has been very busy with my honor;
I own I'm much indebted to you, Sir,
And here return the villain back again
You sent me by my father.

CHAM. Thus I'll thank you.

(Draws.

ACA. By this good sword, who first presumes to violence
Makes me his foe—

[Draws and interposes.

Young man, it once was thought *[To CASTALIO.*

I was fit guardian of my house's honor,
And you might trust your share with me: for you, *[To CHA.*
Young soldier, I must tell you, you have wrong'd me:
I promis'd you to do MONIMIA right;
And thought my word a pledge I would not forfeit:
But you I find, would fright us to performance.

CAST. Sir, in my younger years with care you taught
That brave revenge was due to injur'd honor; *[me,*
Oppose not then the justice of my sword,
Lest you should make me jealous of your love.

CHAM. Into thy father's arms thou fly'st for safety,
Because thou know'st the place is sanctify'd
With the remembrance of an ancient friendship.

CAST.

CAST. I am a villain if I will not seek thee,
Till I may be reveng'd for all the wrongs
Done me by that ungrateful fair thou plead'st for.

CHAM. She wrong'd thee! by the fury of my heart,
Thy father's honor's not above MONIMIA's;
Nor was thy mother's truth and virtue fairer.

ACAST. Boy, don't disturb the ashes of the dead
With thy capricious follies: the remembrance
Of the lov'd creature, that once fill'd these arms—

CHAM. Has not been wrong'd.

CAST. It shall not.

CHAM. No, nor shall

MONIMIA, tho' a helpless orphan, destitute
Of friends and fortune, tho' the unhappy sister
Of poor CHAMONT, whose sword is all his portion,
Be oppress'd by thee, thou proud imperious traitor!

CAST. Ha! let me free.

CHAM. Come both.

Enter SERINA.

SER. Alas! Alas!

The cause of these disorders; my CHAMONT?
Who is't has wrong'd thee?

CAST. Now where art thou fled
For shelter?

CHAM. Come from thine, and see what safeguard
Shall then betray my fears.

SER. Cruel CASTALIO,
Sheath up thy angry sword, and don't affright me:
CHAMONT, let once SERINA calm thy breast;
If any of my friends have done thee injuries,
I'll be reveng'd and love thee better for't.

CAST. Sir, if you'd have me think you did not take
This opportunity to shew your vanity,
Let's meet some other time, when by ourselves
We fairly may dispute our wrongs together.

CHAM. Till then I am CASTALIO's friend.

CAST. SERINA.

Farewell, I wish much happiness attend you.

SER. CHAMONT's the dearest thing I have on earth;
Give me CHAMONT, and let the world forsake me.

CHAM. Witness the gods how happy I am in thee?

No

No beauteous blossom of the fragrant spring,
Tho' the fair child of nature newly born,
Can be so lovely. Angry, unkind CASTALIO,
Suppose I should a while lay by my passions,
And be a beggar in MONIMIA's cause,
Might I be heard?

CAST. Sir, 'twas my last request
You would; tho' you, I find, will not be satisfy'd:
So, in a word, MONIMIA is my scorn,
She basely sent you here to try my fears:
That was your business.

No artful prostitute, in falsehoods practis'd,
To make advantage of her coxcomb's follies,
Could have done more—disquiet vex her for't.

CHAM. Farewell.

[Ex. CHAM. and SER.]

CAST. Farewell—My father you seem troubled.

ACAST. Wou'd I'd been absent when this boist'rous
brave

Came to disturb thee thus: I'm griev'd I hinder'd
Thy just resentment—But MONIMIA——

CAST. Damn her.

ACAST. Don't curse her.

CAST. Did I?

ACAST. Yes.

CAST. I'm sorry for't.

ACAST. Methinks if, as I guess, the fault's but small,
It might be pardon'd.

CAST. No.

ACAST. What has she done?

[me.]

CAST. That she's my wife may heav'n and you forgive

ACAST. Be reconcil'd then.

CAST. No.

ACAST. Go see her.

CAST. No.

ACAST. I'll send and bring her hither.

CAST. No.

ACAST. For my sake,

CASTALIO, and the quiet of my age.

CAST. Why will you urge a thing my nature flirts at?

ACAST. Prithee forgive her.

CAST. Lightnings first shall blast me.

I tell you, were she prostrate at my feet,
Full of her sex's best dissembling sorrows,
And all that wond'rous beauty of her own,
My heart might break, but it should never soften.

Enter FLORELLA.

FLOR. My lord, where are you? oh, CASTALIO!

ACAST. Hark.

CAST. What's that?

FLOR. Oh, shew me quickly, where's CASTALIO?

ACAST. Why, what's the business?

FLOR. Oh, the poor MONIMIA!

CAST. Hah!

ACAST. What's the matter?

FLOR. Hurry'd by despair,

She flies with fury over all the house,

Thro' every room of each apartment, crying,

Where's my CASTALIO? give me my CASTALIO:

Except she sees you, sure she'll grow distracted.

CAST. Ha! will she, does she name CASTALIO?

And with such tenderness; conduct me quickly

To the poor lovely mourner. Oh, my father!

ACAST. Then wilt thou go? blessings attend thy pur-

CAST. I cannot hear MONIMIA's soul in sadness, [pose.

And be a man, my heart will not forget her.

But do not tell the world you saw this of me.

ACAST. Delay not then, but haste and cheer thy love.

CAST. Oh! I will throw m'impatient arms about her,

In her soft bosom sigh my soul to peace,

Till thro' the panting breast she finds the way

To mould my heart, and make it what she will.

MONIMIA! oh?

Ex. ACAST. CAST.

Enter MONIMIA.

MON. Stand off, and give me room;

I will not rest till I have found CASTALIO,

My wished lord, comely as rising day,

Amidst ten thousand eminently known.

Flowers spring where e'er he treads, his lovely eyes

Fountains of brightness, cheering all about him!

When will they shine on me?—Oh stay, my soul!

I cannot die in peace till I have seen him.

CASTALIO

CASTALIO Re-enters.

CAST. Who talks of dying with a voice so sweet,
That life's in love with it?

MON. Hark! 'tis he that answers;
So in a camp, tho' at the dead of night,
If but the trumpet's chearful noise is heard,
All at the signal leap from downy rest,
And every heart awakes, as mine does now.
Where art thou?

CAST. Here, my love.

MON. No nearer, lest I vanish.

CAST. Have I been in a dream then all this while?
And art thou but the shadow of MONIMIA!
Why do'st thou fly me thus?

MON. Oh! were it possible that we could drown
In dark oblivion but a few past hours,
We might be happy!

CAST. Is it then so hard, MONIMIA, to forgive
A fault, where humble love, like mine, implores thee?
For I must love thee, tho' it prove my ruin.
Which way shall I court thee?

What shall I do to be enough thy slave,
And satisfy the lovely pride that's in thee?
I'll kneel to thee, and weep a flood before thee.
Yet prithee, tyrant, break not quite my heart:
But when my task of penitence is done,
Heal it again, and comfort me with love.

MON. If I am dumb, CASTALIO, and want words
To pay thee back this mighty tenderness:
It is because I look on thee with horror,
And cannot see the man I so have wrong'd.

CAST. Thou hast not wrong'd me.

MON. Ah! alas thou talk'st
Just as thy poor heart thinks; have I not wrong'd thee?

CAST. No.

MON. Still thou wand'rest in the dark, CASTALIO;
But wilt e'er long stumble on horrid danger.

CAST. What means my love!

MON. O! could'st thou but forgive me!

CAST. What!

MON. For my fault last night; alas! thou can'st not.

CAST. I can, and do.

MON. Thus crawling on the earth
Would I that pardon meet! the only thing
Can make me view the face of heav'n with hope.

CAST. Then let's draw near.

MON. Ah me!

CAST. So in the fields,

When the destroyer has been out for prey,
The scatter'd lovers of the feather'd kind,
Seeking when danger's past to meet again,
Make moan, and call; by such degrees approach,
'Till joining thus they bill and spread their wings,
Murmuring love, and joy, their fears are over.

MON. Yet have a care, be not too fond of peace,
Lest in pursuance of the goodly quarry,
Thou meet a disappointment that distracts thee.

CAST. My better angel, then do thou inform me
What danger threatens me, and where it lies:
Why did'st thou (prithee smile and tell me why)
When I stood waiting underneath the window,
Quaking with fierce and violent desires;
The dropping dews fell cold upon my head,
Darkness enclos'd, and the winds whistled round me,
Which with my mournful sighs made such sad music
As might have mov'd the hardest heart; why wer't thou
Deaf to my cries, and senseless of my pains?

MON. Did I not beg thee to forbear enquiry?
Read'st thou not something in my face that speaks
Wonderful change, and horror from within me?

CAST. Then there is something yet which I've not
What do'st thou mean by horror and forbearance {known.
Of more enquiry? tell me, I beg thee tell me;
Do not betray me to a second madness.

MON. Must I?

CAST. If labouring in the pangs of death,
Thou would'st do any thing to give me ease;
Unfold this riddle e'er my thoughts grow wild,
And let in fears of ugly form upon me.

MON. My heart won't let me speak it: but remember,

MONIMIA.

MONIMIA, poor MONIMIA tells you this,
We ne'er must meet again——

CAST. What means my destiny?
For all my good or evil fate dwells in thee!
Ne'er meet again!

MON. No, never.

CAST. Where's the pow'r
On earth, that dar's look on me, and say so?
Thou art my heart's inheritance, I serv'd
A long and painful, faithful slavery for thee;
And who shall rob me of the dear-bought blessing?

MON. Time will clear all, but now let this content
Heav'n has decreed, and therefore I've resolv'd [you,
(With torment I must tell it thee, CASTALIO)
Ever to be a stranger to thy love;
In some far distant country waste my life,
And from this day to see thy face no more.

CAST. Where am I? sure I wander 'midst enchantment,
And never more shall find the way to rest;
But, oh! MONIMIA, art thou indeed resolv'd,
To punish me with everlasting absence?
Why turn'st thou from me? I'm alone already;
Methinks I stand upon a naked bench,
Sighing to winds, and to the seas complaining,
Whilst a-far off the vessel sails away,
Where all the treasure of my soul's embark'd;
Wilt thou not turn—oh could those eyes but speak—
I should know all, for love is pregnant in 'em?
They swell, they press the beams upon me still:
Wilt thou not speak? if we must part for ever,
Give me but one kind word to think upon,
And please myself withal whilst my heart's breaking.

MON. Ah, poor CASTALIO! [Exit MONIMIA]

CAST. Pity, by the gods!
She pities me; then thou wilt go eternally?
What means all this? why all this stir to plague
A single wretch? if but your word can shake
This world to atoms, why so much ado
With me? think me but dead, and leave me so.

Enter POLYDORE.

POL. To live, and live a torment to myself!
What dog would bear't, that knew but his condition?
We've little knowledge, and that makes us cowards,
Because it cannot tell us, what's to come.

CAST. Who's there?

POL. Why, what art thou?

CAST. My brother POLYDORE?

POL. My name is POLYDORE.

CAST. Can'st thou inform me—

POL. Of what?

CAST. Of my MONIMIA.

POL. No. Good day.

CAST. In haste?

Methinks my POLYDORE appears in sadness.

POL. Indeed, and so to me does my CASTALIO.

CAST. Do I?

POL. Thou do'st.

CAST. Alas! I've wondrous reason;
I'm strangely alter'd, brother, since I saw thee.

POL. Why?

CAST. Oh! to tell thee would put thy heart
To pain; let me embrace thee but a little,
And weep upon thy neck; I would repose
Within thy friendly bosom all my follies,
For thou wilt pardon 'em, because th'are mine.

POL. Be not too credulous, consider first
Friends may be false. Is there no friendship false?

CAST. Why do'st thou ask me that? does this appear
Like a false friendship, when with open arms
And streaming eyes, I run upon thy breast?

Oh! 'tis in thee alone I must have comfort.

POL. I fear, CASTALIO, I have none to give thee.

CAST. Do'st thou not love me then?

POL. Oh, more than life:

I never had a thought of my CASTALIO;
Might wrong the friendship we had vow'd together:
Had'st thou dealt so by me?

CAST. I hope I have,

POL. Then tell me why this mourning, this disorder?

CAST.

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CAST. Oh! POLYDORE, I know not how to tell thee;
Shame rises in my face, and interrupts
The story of my tongue.

POL. I grieve, my friend,
Knows any thing which he's aham'd to tell me;
Or didst thou e'er conceal thy thoughts from POLYDORE?

CAST. Oh! much too oft; but let me here conjure
By all the kind affection of a brother, [thee
(For I'm aham'd to call myself thy friend).
Forgive me.

POL. Well, go on.

CAST. Our destiny contriv'd
To plague us both with one unhappy love?
Thou, like a friend; a constant generous friend;
In its first pangs didst trust me with thy passion,
Whilst I still smooth'd my pain with smiles before thee,
And made a contract I ne'er meant to keep.

POL. How!

CAST. Still new ways I study'd to abuse thee,
And kept thee as a stranger to my passion,
Till yesterday I wedded with MONIMIA.

POL. Ah, false CASTALIO, was that well done?

CAST. No, to conceal it from thee, was a fault.

POL. A fault; when thou hast heard the tale I'll tell,
What wilt thou call it then?

CAST. How my heart throbs!

POL. First, for thy friendship, traitor,
I cancel't thus: after this day I'll ne'er
Hold trust or converse with the false CASTALIO;
This witness, heav'n!

CAST. What will my fate do with me?
I've lost all happiness and know not why:
What means this, brother?

POL. Perjur'd, treacherous wretch,
Farewell.

CAST. I'll be thy slave, and thou shalt use me
Just as thou wilt, do but forgive me.

POL. Never.

CAST. Oh, think a little what thy heart is doing?
How from our infancy we hand in hand

Have

Have trod the path of life in love together;
 One bed has held us, and the same desires,
 The same averfions still employ'd our thoughts:
 When e'er had I a friend, that was not POLYDORE's,
 Or POLYDORE a foe that was not mine?
 Ev'n in the womb we embrac'd, and wilt thou now,
 For the first fault, abandon and forsake me,
 Leave me amidst afflictions to myself,
 Plung'd in the gulph of grief, and none to help me?

POL. Go to MONIMIA, in her arms thou'lt find
 Repose: she has the art of healing sorrows.

CAST. What arts?

POL. Blind wretch, thou husband! there's a question!
 Go to her fufsome bed and wallow there,
 Till some hot ruffian, full of lust and wine,
 Come storm thee out, and shew thee what's thy bargain.

CAST. Hold there, I charge thee.

POL. Is she not a——

CAST. A whore? [plainly.]

POL. Ay, a whore: I think that word needs no ex-

CAST. Alas, I can forgive e'en this from thee!
 But let me tell thee, POLYDORE, I'm griev'd
 To find thee guilty of fuch low revenge,
 To wrong that virtue which thou could'ft not ruin.

POL. It seems I lie then.

CAST. Should the bravest man
 That e'er wore conquering fword, but dare to whisper
 What thou proclaim'ft, he were the worst of liars:
 My friend may be mistaken.

POL. Damn the evasion:
 Thou mean'ft the worst, and he's a base-born villain
 That said I ly'd.

CAST. Do, draw thy fword, and thrust it thro' my
 There is no joy in life, if thou art lost. [heart.
 A base-born villain!

POL. Yes, thou never cam'ft
 From old ACASIO's loins; the midwife put
 A cheat upon my mother, and instead
 Of a true brother, in the cradle by me
 Plac'd some coarse peasant's cub, and thou art he.

CAST. Thou art my brother still.

POL. Thou ly'ft.

CAST.

CAST. Nay then : *(He draws.*
Yet I am calm.

POL. A coward's always so.

CAST. Ah—ah—that stings home, coward!

POL. Ay, base born coward, villain. [thee

CAST. This to thy heart, then, tho' my mother bore
Fig'. POLYDORE drops his sword and runs on CASTALIO's.

POL. Now my CASTALIO is again my friend.

CAST. What have I done! my sword is in thy breast,

POL. So I would have it be, thou best of men,
Thou kindest brother, and thou truest friend. [justice.

CAST. Ye gods, we're taught that all your works are
Yare painted merciful and friends to innocence :

If so, then why these plagues upon my head? [LIO,

POL. Blame not the heav'ns, here lies thy fate, CASTA-
Th're not the gods, 'tis POLYDORE has wrong'd thee :
I've stain'd thy bed, thy spotless marriage joys
Have been polluted by thy brother's lust.

CAST. By thee?

By me ; last night the horrid deed
Was done, when all things slept but rage and incest.

CAST. Now where's MONIMIA? oh!

Enter MONIMIA.

MON. I'm here, who calls me? .
Methought I heard a voice,
Sweet as the shepherd's pipe upon the mountains,
When all his little flock's at feed before him,
But what means this? here's blood.

CAST. Ay, brother's blood.
Art thou prepared for everlasting pains?

POL. Oh let me charge thee by th' eternal justice,
Hurt not her tender life!

CAST. Not kill her? rack me,
Ye pow'rs above, with all your choicest torments,
Horror of mind, and pains yet uninvited,
If I not practise cruelty upon her.
And treat revenge some way yet never known.

MON. That task myself have finish'd, I shall die
Before we part ; I've drank a healing draught
For all my cares, and never more shall wrong thee.

POL.

POL. Oh, she is innocent.

CAST. Tell me that story,
And thou wilt make a wretch of me indeed.

POL. Had'st thou, CASTALIO, us'd me like a friend,
This ne'er had happen'd; had'st thou let me know
Thy marriage, we had all now met in joy:
But ignorant of that,

Hearing th' appointment made, enrag'd to think
Thou had'st out-done me in successful love,
In the dark I went and supply'd thy place:
Whilst all the night, 'midst our triumphant joys,
The trembling, tender, kind, deceiv'd MONIMIA,
Embrac'd, caress'd, and call'd me her CASTALIO.

CAST. And all this is the work of my own fortune.
None but myself could e'er have been so curst.
My fatal love, alas! has ruin'd thee,
Thou fairest, goodliest frame the gods e'er made,
Or ever human eyes and hearts ador'd!
I've murder'd too my brother.

Why would'st thou study ways to damn me further,
And force the sin of parricide upon me?

POL. 'Twas my own fault, and thou art innocent;
Forgive the barbarous trespass of my tongue.

'Twas a hard violence: I cou'd have dy'd
With love of thee, ev'n when I us'd thee worst:
Nay at each word that my distraction utter'd,
My heart recoil'd, and 'twas half death to speak 'em.

MON. Now, my CASTALIO, the most dear of men,
Wilt thou receive pollution to thy bosom,
And close the eyes of one that has betray'd thee?

CAST. Oh! I'm th' unhappy wretch, whose cruel fate
Has weigh'd thee down into destruction with him;
Why then thus kind to me?

MON. When I'm laid low i'the grave, and quite for-
May'st thou be happy in a fairer bride; [gotten;
But none can ever love thee like MONIMIA.
When I am dead, as presently I shall be,
(For the grim tyrant grasps my heart already)
Speak well of me; and if you find ill tongues
Too busy with my fame, don't hear me wrong'd;

Twill

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'Twill be a noble justice to the memory
Of a poor wretch, once honoured with thy love.
How my head swims! 'tis very dark. Good night. [*Dies.*]

CAST. If I survive thee! what a thought was that!
Thank heav'n I go prepar'd against that curse.

*Enter CHAMONT disarm'd, and seiz'd by ACASTO and
Servants.*

CHAM. Gape hell, and swallow me to quick damnation
If I forgive your house, If I not live
An everlasting plague to thee, ACASTO,
And all thy race. Y'have o'er power'd me now;
But hear me heav'n! Ah! here's the scene of death,
My sister, my MONIMIA! breathless! now,
Ye powers above, if ye have justice, strike,
Strike bolts thro' me, and thro' the curst CASTALIO.

ACAST. My POLYDORE.

POL. Who calls?

ACAST. How cam'st thou wounded?

CAST. Stand off, thou hot bram'd boist'rous noisy
And leave me to my sorrow. [*russian.*]

CHAM. By the love
I bore her living, I will ne'er forsake her.
But here remain till my heart burst with sobbing.

CAST. Vanish I charge thee, or—[*Draws a dagger.*]

CHAM. Thou can'st not kill me,
That would be kindness, and against thy nature.

ACAST. What means CASTALIO? sure thou wilt not
More sorrow on thy aged father's head. [*pull*]

Tell me, I beg you; tell me the sad cause
Of all this ruin.

POL. That must be my task;
But 'tis too long for one in pains to tell:
You'll in my closet find the story written
Of all our woes. CASTALIO's innocent.
And so's MONIMIA, only I'm to blame:
Enquire no farther.

CAST. Thou unkind CHAMONT,
Unjustly hast pursu'd me with thy hate,
And sought the life of him that never wrong'd thee,
Now if thou wilt embrace a noble vengeance,
Come join with me and curse.

CHAM.

CHAM. What?

First thyself,

As I do, and the hour that gave thee birth:
 Confusion and disorder seize the world,
 To spoil all trust and converse amongst men
 'Twixt families engender endless feuds,
 In countries needless fears, in cities factions,
 In states rebellion, and in churches schism:
 'Till all things move against the course of nature;
 'Till form's dissolv'd, the chain of causes broken,
 And the original of being lost.

ACAST. Have patience.

CAST. Patience! preach it to the winds,
 To roaring seas, or raging fires; the knaves
 That teach it laugh at ye when you believe 'em.
 Strip me of all the common needs of life,
 Scald me with leprosie, let friends forsake me,
 I'll bear it all; but curst to the degree
 That I am now, 'tis this must give me patience:
 Thus I find rest, and shall complain no more.

[Stabs himself.

[Dies.

POL. CASTALIO! oh!

CAST. I come.

CHAMONT, to thee my birth-right I bequeath:
 Comfort my mourning father, heal his griefs;

[ACASTO faints into the arms of a servant.

For I perceive they fall with weight upon him.
 And for MONIMIA's sake, whom thou wilt find
 I never wrong'd, be kind to poor SERINA.
 Now all I beg, is, lay me in one grave,
 Thus with my love. Farewell, I now am——nothing.

[Dies.

CHAM. Take care of good ACASTO, whilst I go
 To search the means by which the fates have plagu'd us.
 'Tis thus that heav'n its empire does maintain;
 It may afflict, but man must not complain.

[Exeunt omnes.

